Bengaluru Friday, December 12, 2025 Pages 18 Vol 78 No 342 ₹7

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DH
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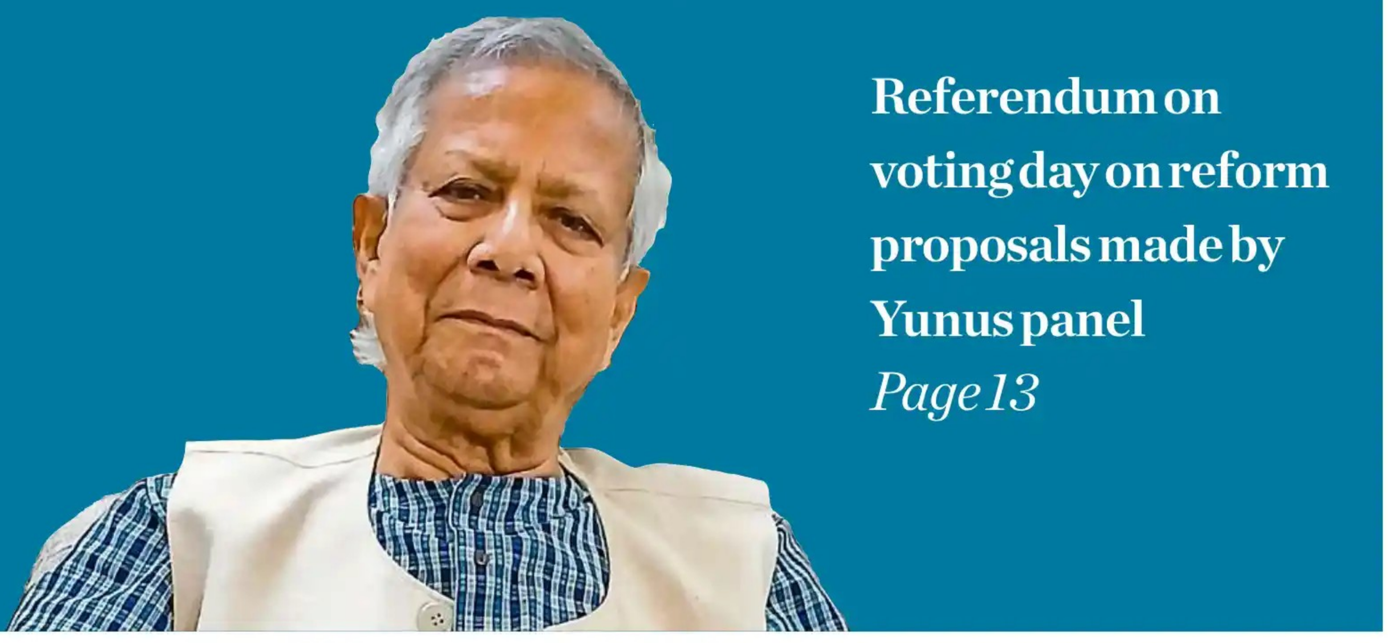
Bangladesh general elections on Feb 12



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Trump Gold Card scheme goes live P.13

SIR schedule revised for 5 states, 1 UT

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Election Commission on Thursday revised the schedule of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls for five states and one Union Territory, assigning new dates for completing the enumeration and publishing the draft rolls following requests from chief electoral officers.

The changes will be for Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The enumeration period for Tamil Nadu and Gujarat has been extended till December 14 while the draft rolls in these states will be published on December 19. Similarly, it will be December 18 and December 23, respectively, for Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Andaman and Nicobar Island, and December 26 and December 31, respectively, for Uttar Pradesh.

The enumeration period for Goa, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Rajasthan and West Bengal ended on Thursday and the draft voter lists will be published on December 16. The schedule of Kerala was revised earlier.

The initial schedule published by the EC had said the enumeration phase would end on December 4 followed by publication of draft roll on December 9 and final roll on February 7. It was then extended by a week.

Goa blaze: Luthra brothers detained in Thailand

Delhi court rejects bail plea; officials say deportation proceedings on

PANAJI, PTI

Gaurav and Saurav Luthra, co-owners of the 'Birch by Romeo Lane' nightclub where a Saturday blaze claimed 25 lives, have been detained by the authorities in Thailand, even as a Delhi court on Thursday rejected the transit anticipatory bail pleas of the duo.

According to officials, their deportation has been initiated, and the two would be brought to India after completion of exit formalities in Thailand.

Later in the day, Additional Sessions Judge Vandana dismissed the duo's bail pleas. During the proceedings, counsel for the state of Goa opposed the pleas, saying, "They left, they concealed, and they are now seeking leniency."

Referring to judicial observations, the counsel said: "Once it is shown that a person is attempting to evade the process of law, the court should not come to his aid at all."

44-year-old Gaurav and his 40-year-old brother Saurav had fled to Phuket within hours after the December 6 tragedy at their club in Goa. An Interpol Blue Corner notice was issued on December 9 following a request from the Goa police routed through the CBI.

As soon as the news of the detention of the Luthra brothers emerged, pictures with handcuffs holding their passports started appearing on social media.

The Goa police said the two brothers were accused of injury causing death, manslaughter and murder by organising a fire show "without taking proper care and caution and without providing fire safety equipment".

According to officials, the co-owners made an immediate attempt to evade arrest and booked their air tickets for Phuket through a travel portal at 1.17 am on December 7, a little over an hour after learning about the fire at their nightclub.

Union Minister of State for Renewable Energy Shripad Naik, who hails from Goa, told reporters outside Parliament: "Yes, both of them are arrested." He wondered why they ran away when such a big tragedy had happened.

In a related development, a Goa court on Thursday remanded Ajay Gupta, a partner in the fire-ravaged nightclub, to seven days of police custody.

CHARTING LATEST OF GOA CASE
Thai authorities detain Guarav (L) and Saurav Luthra (R) after an Interpol Blue Corner notice

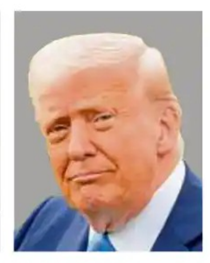
- Officials say the duo would be brought to India after completion of formalities
- A local court remands Ajay Gupta, a partner in the nightclub, to seven days of police custody
- Gupta claims he had no operational role in the facility
- He was arrested following the issuance of a Look Out Circular
- Goa police have arrested 5 managers, staff members of the nightclub

Will be brought back at earliest: Goa CM

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday said the Luthra brothers would be brought back to India from Thailand at the earliest. The team of Goa police and CBI would bring the Luthra brothers, prime accused in the case, back to India "as soon as possible", the CM said.

Modi speaks to Trump, 'reviews progress' in ties

Third call after Trump hiked tariffs on Indian goods



NEW DELHI, AGENCIES

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held a phone conversation with US President Donald Trump that focused on enhancing economic ties at a time when the two countries are eyeing to seal a trade deal.

Modi described the conversation as "warm and engaging" and said their countries would continue to work together for global peace, stability and prosperity.

"We reviewed the progress in our bilateral relations and discussed regional and international developments," Modi said in a post on X.

Modi and Trump have spoken three times since Trump doubled tariffs on imports from India to as much as 50%, hitting exports of textiles, chemicals and food items such as shrimp.

Both the leaders also agreed to work closely to address shared challenges and advance common interests, officials said.

The leaders also exchanged views on expanding cooperation in critical technologies, energy, defence and security, and other priority areas, they added.

US Deputy Trade Representative Rick Switzer is in New Delhi on a two-day visit to discuss trade ties.

Trade negotiations between the two sides collapsed in late July, after India resisted opening its market for US farm products and declined to acknowledge President Trump's repeated claims of mediating a ceasefire between India and Pakistan during the flare-up in May.

Mexico for higher tariffs on goods from India

Mexico's Congress has approved a bill that seeks to impose higher tariffs on imports from India, China, Brazil and several other countries with which it doesn't have free trade agreements. The levies are set to take effect on January 1.
Details on Page 14

IndiGo's Rs 10k voucher offer to affected fliers

BENGALURU, DHNS: IndiGo, which has been mired in severe operational disruptions over the last few days, on Thursday announced that it will offer travel vouchers worth Rs 10,000 to those passengers whose flights were cancelled or delayed for several hours between December 3 and 5. The vouchers can be used for any future journey for the next 12 months, the carrier said in a statement.

IndiGo further added that this compensation is in addition to the commitment under existing government guidelines according to which, it will provide compensation of Rs 5,000-10,000, depending on the block time of the flight, to those customers whose flights were cancelled within 24 hours of departure time.

The airline said its priority continues to be the "care of its customers". "We have ensured that all refunds for cancelled flights have been initiated, most of which have already reflected in your accounts, with the remainder following shortly," it added.

If a booking was made through a travel platform, action for refund is said to have been initiated. "As we may not have your complete details in our system, we request you to write to us at customer.experience@goindigo.in," IndiGo stated.

Chinnaswamy to host IPL after safety steps?

BELAGAVI, DHNS: The Cabinet is said to have decided to allow matches of the upcoming season Indian Premier League (IPL) season at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium only after the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) complies with safety and security requirements. According to sources, the Cabinet placed the onus on KSCA to implement recommendations of the Justice John Michael Cunha Commission's report following the June 4 stampede outside the stadium in which 11 people died. **Page 6**

21 Assam workers feared dead in Arunachal accident

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

PHOTO CREDIT: INDIAN ARMY.

Twenty-one workers from Assam were feared dead when the vehicle in which they were travelling plunged into a deep gorge on the Hayuliang–Chaglagam Road in neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh on the night of December 8.

The Army on Thursday found bodies of at least 18 workers.

There were 22 workers in the vehicle and were on their way to work in Hayuliang in Anjaw district, official sources said.

A statement issued by the defence spokesperson in Guwahati on Thursday said Spear Corps swung into search and rescue efforts on Wednesday (December 10) after an injured worker reached out to them seeking help. The area is very remote.

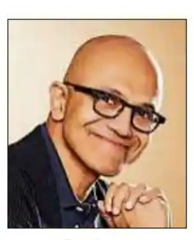
"The accident site, approximately 12 km short of Chaglagam, lies in difficult terrain with limited connectivity and had not been reported by any local agency, contractor or civil representative until the survivor's arrival," the statement said.

▸ **Accident, Page 6**

India world's No.1 community with GitHub: Nadella in B'luru

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

India is slated to become the number one community in the world with GitHub by 2030, Microsoft chairman and CEO Satya Nadella said.



Satya Nadella

Speaking at the Microsoft AI Tour in Bengaluru on Thursday, he said that it is fantastic to see the engagement and the type of projects that are coming out of this place, the contributions from India. "We are building out GitHub as essentially Agent HQ (an agentic platform that unites every agent)," Nadella added.

GitHub is a cloud-based platform where one can share, store and work together with others to write code. GitHub projects that by 2030, there will be 57.5 million developers in India, surpassing the US that will have 54.7 million.

Talking about agentic AI and its significance, Nadella stressed on the importance of mindset shift, even for developers.

"We need even a new way to think about the frontier of the classic SDLC (software development life cycle), which has to change to a new form of AI- driven SDLC. I think that will be pretty critical," he said, adding that there would be a new model drop by Microsoft on Friday.

▸ **Nadella, Page 6**
TCS, Cognizant, Wipro, Infy to use Copilot, Page 14

AIR MILES

State govt spent Rs 47 crore on CM's flights: Data

BELAGAVI, DHNS

CM Siddaramaiah flew on special flights, aircraft and helicopters, spending Rs 47 crore at the taxpayers' expense between May 2023 and November 2025.

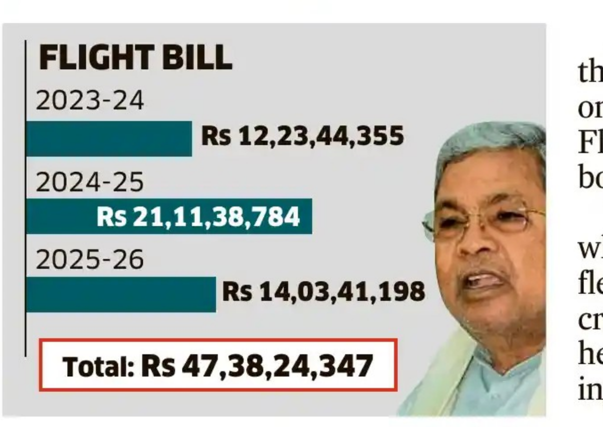
Siddaramaiah, who is also the finance minister, provided this information to the Legislative Council in a written reply to a question by BJP's N Ravikumar.

In his question, Ravikumar sought details on the reasons for which aircraft were hired by the CM over the past two-and-half years.

Siddaramaiah stated that renting out aircraft or helicopters for official trips of the Governor, the CM and the Chief Justice was exempt from the provisions of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act.

In the past two-and-a-half years, Siddaramaiah spent over Rs 5 crore to fly from Bengaluru to his native place Mysuru. The two cities are just two hours apart by road. He has flown to Mysuru 22 times. On one occasion, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's round-trip Bengaluru-Mysuru flight cost Rs 23.18 lakh.

Siddaramaiah's other flight trips included New Delhi, Hyderabad and Chennai.



According to an analysis of the data, the CM on average booked a helicopter or special flight once every five days. Flights and helicopters for the CM were booked 180 times in his current term.

In 2023-24, the CM flew 48 times, which cost Rs 12.23 crore. In 2024-25, he flew 84 times, raising a bill of Rs 20.88 crore. In the current fiscal, aircraft and helicopters were booked 48 times costing Rs 14.03 crore.

The 180 bookings were through GMP Air Charters. According to the reply, the CM has used special flights, aircraft and helicopters only for official visits.

The BJP termed it a waste of taxpayers' money. "Do you call a person who spends a whopping Rs 47 crore on air travel a socialist? It hardly takes one hour 45 minutes for a CM to reach Mysuru by road, but Siddaramaiah spent Rs 5 crore," said Ravikumar.

BIAL tightens rules on pick-up lanes at KIA's T2

New time limits, fines to curb congestion and unauthorised cabs

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru has introduced new measures to tackle chronic congestion and unauthorised cab operations at the Terminal 2 arrivals pick-up area, following the implementation of overstay charges at the kerbsides.

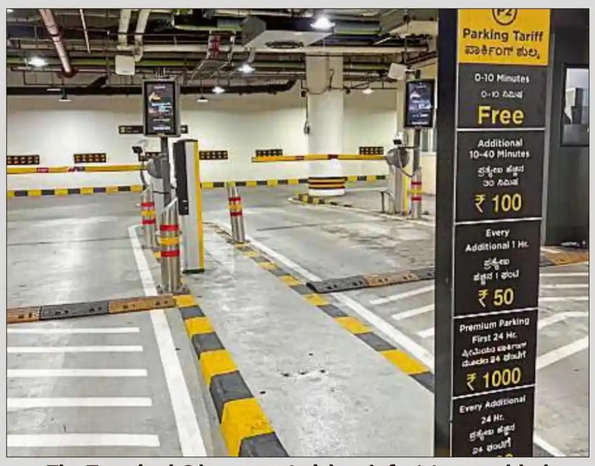
A visit to the airport showed that BIAL has put in place a detailed system with fast tag-enabled entry and exit gates, a time limit for private vehicles, and clear diversion for commercial yellow-board taxis.

The T2 arrivals floor (Level 0) now sees a separation of vehicles.

The first few lanes are dedicated to authorised cabs such as Ola, Uber and government-run airport taxis, while the subsequent lanes are designated for private white-board vehicles picking up passengers.

A BIAL spokesperson said the new system is aimed at enhancing passenger safety and easing congestion caused by unauthorised drivers and their associates, who would often tout for business and block lanes for long periods.

The eight-minute limit, while seemingly tight, is said to be an increase over the five-minute limits seen in many international airports. The goal is to bring discipline and discourage unauthorised waiting, the spokesperson said.



The Terminal-2 basement pick up's fast-tag-enabled exit points. DH PHOTO/ASHWIN BM

The T1 rollout

BIAL officials told *DH* that similar rules will be extended to Terminal 1 on Saturday, where domestic carriers like IndiGo operate.

Due to the T1's shorter arrival lane, the time calculation will begin 80 metres from the pick-up points.

At the road bifurcation leading to T1 and T2, traffic police and barricades are being deployed to enforce segregation, diverting all yellow-board taxis to designated parking areas (P3/P4).

Many private taxi drivers expressed concern that the narrow time-bound window of entry and exit will not be sufficient for them to pick up passengers and their luggage.

They have demanded that it be increased to at least 15 minutes.

So far, the implementation at T2 has been smooth, with no backlash or protests from drivers reported.

Police personnel have been deployed in the vicinity to ensure compliance with the new rule, suggesting the BIAL's long-sought solution to the touting network may finally be taking effect and shape.

Revised fee structure on display at the airport. DH FILE PHOTO

BIAL to impose kerbside overstay charges from Dec 11 (T2), Dec 13 (T1)

BENGALURU, DHNS: The KIA will impose overstay charges at arrival kerbsides after a brief delay caused by flight disruptions. A BIAL spokesperson confirmed the new measures to reduce kerbside congestion will be implemented from Thursday at Terminal 2 and Saturday at Terminal 1.

The decision to charge for overstaying at pick-up zones is the BIAL's response to significant traffic strain at the airport.

The airport handles 1.3 lakh passengers and nearly 1 lakh vehicles daily. The kerbside area, meant for quick pick-ups, is often misused for prolonged waiting and unauthorised parking.

The BIAL has reported more unauthorised cabs and private vehicles waiting outside arrival gates and exit ramps, causing crowding, safety risks and traffic disruptions.

The BIAL tried to introduce a similar overstay system in May 2024, but suspended it after backlash from cab driver associations and passenger concerns over higher costs.

The current plan is revised. Instead of seven minutes free access, the new model gives private vehicles eight minutes and enforces stricter lane segregation.

Besides eight minutes free time, private vehicles will pay Rs 150 for overstaying between 8 and 13 minutes, and Rs 300 between 13 and 18 minutes. Beyond 18 minutes, vehicles will be towed and fined. Commercial vehicles must use designated parking, with 10 minutes free; cab drivers pay Rs 150 for a half-hour slot after that.

The rollout, scheduled for December 8, was postponed allowing flight operations to stabilise after the IndiGo airline crisis.

The new charges do not apply to vehicles dropping passengers at departure gates.

A BIAL spokesperson said the new pick-up measures are designed to streamline kerbside movement and improve the experience for passengers and airport stakeholders.

KEY FEATURES OF THE TRAIN

- Modern, contemporary interiors for enhanced passenger comfort
- Energy-efficient systems with upgraded passenger information features
- Extra wide gangways for seamless passenger movement between coaches
- USB charging ports, ergonomic seating and improved accessibility provisions
- Compliance with advanced fire safety, crashworthiness and international safety standards
- Compatibility with Communication-Based Train Control for fully driverless operations

Prototype out; 6 trains to drive Pink Line's partial May launch

BENGALURU, DHNS

The much-awaited prototype train for Namma Metro's Pink Line was rolled out on Thursday, raising hopes for the opening of a short, elevated stretch in May.

The six-coach trainset was unveiled at the BEML Rail Complex in the presence of PSU's Chairman and Managing Director Shantanu Ray, BMRCL Managing Director J Ravishankar and other senior officials. A test run was also conducted on the occasion.

The train will be dispatched 20 km to the Kothanur depot by trailers in the next few days, a BEML spokesperson said.

After receiving the prototype, the BMRCL will conduct statutory tests to get approvals from the Ministry of Railways, the Research Designs and Standards Organisations (RDSO), and the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS).

"The prototype reflects BEML's expanding contribution to India's metro ecosystem, especially in the domain of driverless (GoA4) urban transit systems. All design and engineering activities have been executed by BEML's in-house teams," BEML said.

The company will also provide comprehensive maintenance support for up to 15 years.

The Pink Line is slated to open in two phases — the elevated section (Kalena Agrahara-Tavarekere, 7.5 km) in May 2026 and the 13.76-km underground section (Dairy Circle-Nagawara) in December 2026.

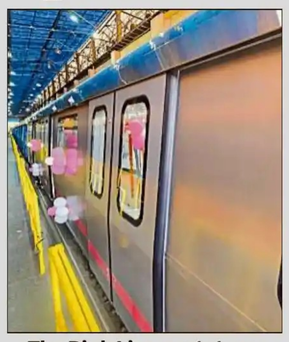
A senior BMRCL official told *DH* that plans were afoot to open the elevated stretch with six trains in May.

Originally slated for delivery in June 2025, the prototype was delayed due to a shortage of key equipment and delays in type tests.

BEML won a Rs 3,177-crore contract on August 7, 2023, to supply 53 trainsets — 37 for the Blue Line (Silk Board Junction-KR Pura-Kempegowda International Airport, 58.19 km) and 16 for the Pink Line (Kalena Agrahara-Nagawara, 21.26 km).

In March 2025, BEML received a Rs 405-crore top-up order for seven more Pink Line trains and another Rs 414-crore order last week for six Yellow Line trains.

BEML earlier supplied 57 trains for the Green and Purple lines.



The Pink Line prototype train rolled out by BEML in Bengaluru on Thursday. PHOTO: BEML

Key info on city highways now available with ease

BENGALURU, DHNS: People can now access key information about highways connecting Bengaluru, amenities near them and essential contacts with ease.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is placing QR code boards along four highways connecting the city.

These boards have already been placed on the Bengaluru-Nelamangala stretch of NH 48 and the Bengaluru-Kolar-Mulbagal stretch of NH 75. Work is underway to install them on two more stretches — the Bengaluru-Hyderabad stretch of NH 44 and the Dobbspet-Devanahalli-Dobbspet-Hoskote section of the Bengaluru Satellite Town Ring Road (NH 648) — within a month, an NHAI official said.

When scanned, the QR code provides details about the stretch (length, construction and maintenance period), nearby toll plazas and contact numbers, wayside amenities such as restaurants, service stations/e-charging points, rest areas, petrol pumps, toilets, nest areas, puncture repair shops, truck lay-bys, emergency contacts (highway patrol, resident engineer, police station, project manager, etc), and hospitals among other information.

A QR code board placed along NH 48 (Tumakuru Road) in Bengaluru.

Cabinet clears Rs 307-cr revamp of ORR between KR Puram & Silk Board Jn

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state cabinet on Thursday approved a Rs 307-crore facelift for the Outer Ring Road (ORR) stretch between the Silk Board Junction and KR Pura metro station.

The 17.01-km stretch will be developed comprehensively to improve commuting quality and ease congestion.

According to officials from Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), the upgraded corridor will feature a 10-lane configuration — three main carriageway lanes and two service road lanes on each side. "We also plan to revive the defunct bus priority lane to help decongest traffic."

It includes continuous brushed-concrete footpaths that will double as cycle lanes on both sides. While certain parts will be rebuilt, most of the stretch will receive a standard bituminous concrete layer.

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
ENGINEERING WORKS

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms / contractor for the following works. **Tender Notice No.:** 19-2025-SrDENCo **Name of Work:** Provision of Stabling and supporting work like Portal, Shotcreting, Rock Bolting etc. at critical locations inside Tunnel No.2 in KWV-LUR section in Solapur Division. **Approximate Cost of the work:** Rs.14,24,83,741.00 **Earnest Money:** Rs. 8,62,400.00 **Completion period of the work:** 12 Months **Maintenance Period:** 12 Months **Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website:** 25/12/2025 upto 15.00 hrs **Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in:** 25/12/2025 at 15.30 hrs. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in**

Divisional Railway Manager (Works)
Central Railway, Solapur

Apex-086

अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
MECHANICAL WORK-GEM/2025/B 6962429 Dated 10.12.2025

DRM(M)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of the President of India invites sealed tender from the reputed firms/Contractors for the following works:- **Name of work with its locality:** The contract work Hiring of Non-AC vehicle for ADME/Wadi for inspection and attending unusual occurrences (Hot Axel, Derailment etc.) in Solapur division for a period of 2 years on open tender basis through GeM. **System of tendering:** Single Packet System. **Approximate Cost of Work:** Rs.9,84,000/- **Cost of the Tender form:** Nil **Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased:** DRM(M)'s office, Central Railway, Solapur **Earnest money to be deposited:** Rs. 19,680/- **Completion period of the work:** Two years from the date of commencement of the work **Date & Time for submission of tender:** 02.01.2026 at 09.00 hrs. **Date & Time of opening of tender:** 02.01.2026 at 09.30 hrs. **Website particulars & notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen: www.gem.gov.in/**

Sr. DME, Solapur

Apex-087

अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
(CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP)
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
Plot No.12 &13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-58.
Fax: 080-28094180. Ph: 080-28094196, 4184, 4541, 4542

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of President of India, **item rate E-Tender** is invited from Contractors of appropriate class for following works.

NIT No.	**ISTRAC/CMG/CON/C/ETN-98/ 2025-26 dated: 11.12.2025**
Name of work	**Modification and extension to SHUSHRITHA Clinic at DOS/ISRO Housing Colony, Jalahalli, Bengaluru (Civil, PH & Electrical Works)**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 38.83 Lakhs**
Tender Document details	**E-Tender**
Period of Completion	**04 (Four) Months**
Period during which tender documents can be downloaded	**From 14.30 hrs. on 12.12.2025 to 16.30 hrs. on 26.12.2025**
Bid clarifications	**From 15.30 hrs. 12.12.2025 to 16.30 hrs on 27.12.2025**
Last date of reply to Bid clarification	**Up to 16.30 hrs on 29.12.2025**
Last date & time for receipt of tenders	**Up to 14.30 hrs on 30.12.2025**
Due date & time of opening of tenders	**31.12.2025 after 11.30 hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 77,660/-**

For eligiblity criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and the tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**

Sd/-Group Head-CMG

BTP crackdown: In 1 year, 97,700 parking & footpath cases

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has booked nearly 83,000 vehicle owners for parking on footpaths and obstructing pedestrians, and another 14,700 for driving on footpaths.

Despite strict enforcement, 203 pedestrians have lost their lives in accidents in the city till November this year.

The data highlights the poor condition of footpaths and civic infrastructure such as skywalks and pedestrian underpasses.

The figures were presented in the Legislative Assembly session, where BJP MLA S Suresh Kumar raised concerns over pedestrian safety.

A senior official said efforts to prevent such deaths include booking those driving or parking on footpaths, but many fatalities occur while people are crossing roads.

"We have flagged the need for more skywalks to prevent pedestrians from crossing busy roads," a senior BTP official said. The official said the BTP is working with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to install high-rise medians at busy roads to deter unsafe crossings.

In a written reply, Home Minister G Parameshwara said the BTP has requested the GBA for 101 more skywalks, 363 zebra crossings, 45 pelican signals and 112 grill barricades on medians.

Pedestrians said most footpaths are encroached upon or broken, forcing them onto the road.

Senior GBA officials said efforts to clear encroachments are ongoing.

"Many street vendors return to the footpaths, making prevention difficult. We are keeping a constant watch on encroachers and have directed officials to regularly check and repair footpaths," a senior official from the Bengaluru South City Corporation said.

Sources in the GBA said the BTP proposals are under review. Data shows 3,985 accidents reported till October end, with 715 deaths and 2,087 seriously injured.

Encroached and broken footpaths push pedestrians onto the road. DH FILE PHOTO

THE FINE PRINT

Lives lost	Till October 31	Whole of 2024
Accidents	3,985	4,769
Deaths	715	894
Seriously injured	2,087	2,841
Pedestrian deaths	203	246

51st cake show returns with diverse flavour

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru's Annual Cake Show is back at Palace Grounds for its 51st edition from Friday, transforming the sprawling venue into a wonderland of edible art.

More than 25 dazzling creations by 50 artists will be on display at Tripura Vasini Gate.

For the first time, the Institute of Baking and Cake Art (IBCA) has used laser-cut technology, sharpening the cakes' edges. "While this was possible manually, laser technology saves time and improves details," said Manish Gaur, the event organiser. A 'daiva' model, inspired by the Kannada blockbuster *Kantara*, is this year's showstopper.

Ramachandran C, who launched the show 51 years ago, said, "My passion for baking began during visits to Germany, Belgium and Italy. My first creation was a 14-foot Eiffel Tower cake. Though I no longer organise the show, I still contribute a large model every year."

Entry is free and parking is available for visitors.

BDA open house sees strong public turnout

BENGALURU, DHNS: Site allotments, compensations and alternative site requests were among the major issues addressed during the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) open house on Thursday. Fifty tokens were issued to complainants who raised grievances on WhatsApp.

Each case was addressed by Commissioner P Manivannan and Chairman MLA NA Haris, who joined via video conference. The BDA holds grievance meetings every Thursday, addressing a different zone each week.

Gokul K, a complainant, said, "I bought a plot through auction in 2025, but found out later that it was already sold to someone else years ago. We are here to ask for a refund of the bank loan interest we have paid until now."

Several complaints involved the Turahalli forest area, with pending No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from the forest department.

The commissioner promised to address the issue internally and with the department, aiming for resolution by the next South Zone grievance meeting on January 8.

Manivannan ordered compensations and refunds to be processed within 30 days, or the BDA would pay a fine to the complainant.

The open house drew positive public response, especially for complainants who had visited the BDA office for years without progress.

One complainant said, "I am a senior citizen, and I have been going around for years. We finally got a solution. We hope this programme continues and provides solutions to people like me."

If a complainant misses the appointment, they must file the complaint again and wait for new allotments, the commissioner said.

WhatsApp number to submit your grievances: 9483166622.

BEYOND TEXTBOOKS

Deccan International School students get hands-on civic lesson at GBA command centre

BENGALURU, DHNS

Shifting the focus from textbooks to hands-on civic learning, 40 students from Deccan International School on Thursday completed an educational tour of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), gaining real-world insights into sustainable urban living.

Organised in partnership with the Reap Benefit team, the visit offered a detailed walkthrough of the GBA's call centre and war room, where students saw how urban issues are reported, tracked, and resolved.

Accompanied by teachers Chaitra Kashyap and Asha N, the students learned about the complete lifecycle of a public grievance — from the moment a complaint is filed to its closure by the civic personnel concerned.

A highlight of the visit was an interaction with senior GBA officials, including Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao, the commissioner for climate change, and key environmental officers. These conversations gave students a window into the city's administrative strategies and sustainability initiatives.

The Reap Benefit team also led a brief session on Bengaluru's pressing urban challenges, including waste management, traffic congestion, and environmental degradation, emphasising the crucial role citizens, particularly young people, can play in addressing them.

"The experience helped students develop a deeper appreciation for civic responsibility and the importance of sustainable living in a rapidly growing metropolis like Bengaluru," a school spokesperson said.

Students enthusiastically interact with GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao on Thursday.

3 killed as speeding car jumps divider, collides with KSRTC bus

BENGALURU, DHNS: Three residents of Sadahalli in Devanahalli taluk were killed on Wednesday night when their speeding car jumped the divider on the Hyderabad–Bengaluru National Highway and collided head-on with a KSRTC bus.

The crash occurred around 11.30 pm near Lalagondanahalli Gate.

According to the Devanahalli traffic police, the sedan, travelling at high speed from Chikkaballapur towards Devanahalli, veered out of control, crossed the median, and hit the oncoming bus.

The impact left the car mangled, making rescue difficult.

The occupants — Suman (28), an MBA student, and Mohan Kumar (33) and Sagar (23), both in the granite business — died on the spot. All three were friends and residents of Sadahalli. Minor injuries were reported among bus passengers.

The crash caused heavy traffic congestion through the night as police struggled to extricate the bodies and clear the wreckage. Police attributed the accident to rash and negligent driving.

The bodies have been sent for post-mortem, and a case has been registered.

The sedan veered out of control, crossed the median, and collided with the oncoming bus.

Road rage incident at eatery traumatises woman

BENGALURU, DHNS: A woman in southern Bengaluru was left shaken after a road rager allegedly barged into her eatery, threatened and molested her, as per a police complaint.

Police arrested the suspect, 28-year-old Hrithik Reddy, a real-estate businessman, after the woman filed a complaint.

Hrithik Reddy

The incident occurred around 7.30 pm on December 9 on Shanthipura Main Road, off Hosur Road, as Reddy allegedly abused and manhandled the woman in public view.

Reddy picked a quarrel with another motorist after their vehicles brushed near the woman's eatery. As the argument escalated, both men ran into the eatery, continuing their fight.

The 36-year-old woman asked them not to cause a ruckus in her eatery, while her husband tried to intervene.

Reddy allegedly turned aggressive, hurled abuses and pulled her clothes while threatening to shut down their business. When her husband intervened, Reddy reportedly assaulted him and slammed the door on his leg.

Residents tried to alert police, but Reddy and the other motorist fled before help arrived.

The woman later approached Parappana Agrahara police, who registered a case of molestation, assault, criminal intimidation and using obscene language in public.

Reddy was arrested and remanded to judicial custody, said Narayana M, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Electronics City).

Muniraju, the woman's husband, said, "The incident was caught on our CCTV camera. Police examined it and identified him soon after. We have never seen him in this locality before. My wife was deeply shaken and could not sleep for two days after he misbehaved with her in public."

Police book abetment case after MBA student found dead at home

BENGALURU, DHNS

Soladevanahalli police have registered a case of abetment to suicide after a 22-year-old college student was found dead at his rented accommodation in northern Bengaluru, officials said on Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Jagan Mohanan, originally from Kozhikode in Kerala. He was a second-year MBA student at a private college in the city.

The FIR stated that Kirankumar K, the complainant and Mohanan's brother, received a call on December 9 at 4.30 pm from his sister Shilpa that Mohanan was not responding to calls and had locked the door of his house in Thammenahalli from inside. She told him that even the house owner was not able to open the door.

Kirankumar was also informed that they placed a mobile phone in the gap between the door and saw Mohanan hanging inside. Since he was in Kerala, he informed his sister, who was in Bengaluru, to check, the FIR said.

The door was forced open, and Mohanan was found dead inside.

Extortion angle?

A note left behind by the deceased was also discovered. In it, three phone numbers and a bank account number were written, and Mohanan was forced to send them Rs 24,000, the FIR noted.

"Unidentified people demanded more money from Mohanan and also threatened him," Kirankumar was quoted as saying in the FIR.

A police investigator told *DH* that they have launched an investigation after registering the case on December 10 under BNS Section 108 (abetment of suicide).

"We will know the reason for the death once the investigation is concluded. We are also verifying if the unidentified callers were cybercriminals attempting to extort the deceased," he added.

Man stabbed to death by younger brother after quarrel

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 35-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by his younger brother following a quarrel at their house in Banashankari, South Bengaluru, on Thursday.

Police said that the victim, Mohammad Mujahid, was attacked by his brother Mohammad Musaib, 23, after Mujahid reportedly abused their mother.

In a fit of rage, Musaib is said to have picked up a knife from the house and stabbed Mujahid, who died on the spot. Musaib also sustained injuries during the scuffle and has been admitted to hospital.

According to police, the brothers worked as teachers at a madrasa in Shidlaghatta, Chikkaballapur district.

Mujahid had allegedly abused their mother a month ago and had stayed away since then. He returned home on Wednesday to meet the family. Musaib reportedly insisted that he apologise to their mother. When Mujahid refused, Musaib allegedly stabbed him repeatedly.

The Banashankari police have registered a case of murder and are investigating.

IN CITY TODAY

GENERAL

Institute of Chartered Accountants of India: Global Capability Centres summit; Manjula N, Prasanna Kumar D and others; Jnanajyoti Hall; 9.30 am.

Indian Institute of Interior Designers: Discussion on Bengaluru infrastructure; Maheshwara Rao, LK Atheeq, Uma Reddy, Naresh Narasimhan and Dinesh Verma; Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath; Kumarakrupa Road; 5 pm.

Dayananda Sagar College of Arts, Science and Commerce: Inauguration of postgraduate programmes; DSI Campus, Kumaraswamy Layout; 11 am.

CULTURAL

Chitranatya Foundation: Interaction on Kannada literature and music by LG Meera; Kumaravyasa Mantapa, 57th B Cross, Rajajinagar 4th Block; 5.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.0°C
Minimum	15.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	74%
Sunset (Dec 12)	5:54 pm
Sunrise (Dec 13)	6:31 am
Moonrise	--
Moonset	12:00 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

MARUTI SUZUKI ARENA
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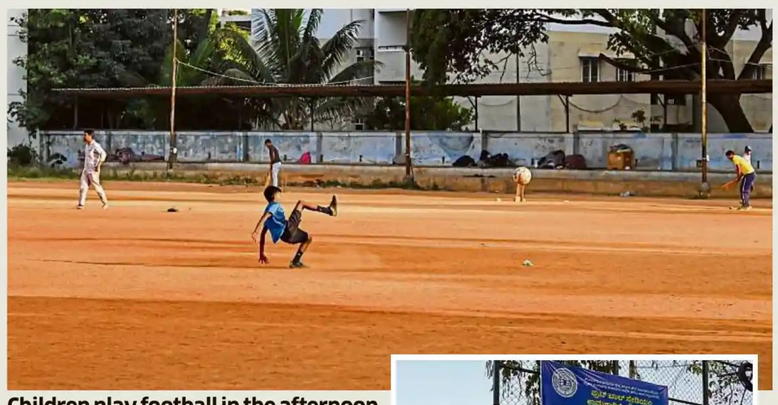
BREZZA

Stadium plan triggers furore

Residents fear the Austin Town grounds, which produced football greats, will eventually be privatised

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE



Children play football in the afternoon at Nandan Ground. The ground is free and can be accessed throughout the day. DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

A poster revealed plans to develop Nandan Ground into a football stadium, raising concerns about privatisation and public access.

The potential loss of a community playground in Austin Town has raised concerns among residents of the area. Earlier this week, a poster was put up outside a century-old BBMP ground, commonly called Nandan Ground. The poster announces the plans for the ground to be developed into a football stadium with artificial turf, as revealed by local MLA and Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) chairman N A Harris. Residents fear it may be privatised, changing its open nature and restricting public access.

Members of the community have taken to social media, posting on both Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) about "the destruction of a ground that has produced Olympians, state-level, and divisional-level footballers for decades".

Metrolife visited the area, where many community members, who chose to remain anonymous, expressed their concerns. Somshaker (name changed), a resident who has used the ground for almost 40 years, recalled that this space has always served the community. Given the socio-economic status of many residents, the free access to the ground has played a crucial role in nurturing the raw talent of players who started their careers at Nandan Ground, including Sarangapani Raman (also known as 'Left Foot Raman'), the first Indian to score an Olympic goal.

Akashmani (name changed), who runs a pro-bono football club aimed at helping local youth improve their skills, stated, "Converting it into a stadium will change its open nature and restrict public access." This change would not only reduce the playtime available but also impact the livelihoods of many families in the community, as football serves as a source of income for them by producing professional players.

Additionally, the ground serves as a major recreational space for morning walkers, joggers, and volleyball players. On Sundays, it becomes a lively hub for cricket enthusiasts from the area. The community is concerned that developing the ground will limit the only open space within a 5 km radius.

Clifton D'Rozario, a lawyer and community member, adds that the involvement of BDA would go against the High Court judgment (W.P. No. 5526/2020), which directs that all parks, playgrounds, and open spaces must be preserved and protected by BBMP.

"This appeal is so that public spaces are not monetised. Where are people, especially the youth, going to go otherwise? The loss of public infrastructure affects entire communities," he says.

Akashmani also highlighted past issues when the ground was rented out for cultural and religious events, which resulted in littering. Some of the installations affected the evenness of the ground, making it difficult to play sports or exercise. "Many players have suffered injuries due to the uneven terrain. After a recent cultural event, we even found about a kilo of nails discarded on the ground," he added.

While the community is anxious about the proposal, they would welcome it if it guarantees year-round free access. They would also prefer regular maintenance and the addition of toilets and changing rooms over a full-fledged stadium.

ALL AMENITIES WILL BE ACCESSIBLE TO COMMUNITY: N A HARRIS

Metrolife spoke with MLA N A Harris, who confirmed that the development of the ground is driven by a community-focused vision. "All the development we are undertaking is for the community. The stadium will feature additional galleries and turf (artificial grass) suitable for both football and cricket, as well as restrooms," he explained. Harris emphasised that all amenities will be accessible to the community at no cost. "It's for the community. I am facilitating its development through the BDA because I am the chairman of the BDA, and the area was initially developed by the CITB (City Improvement Trust Board), the former development body for Bengaluru."

He expressed confusion over the community's concerns, suggesting that these issues stemmed from political opposition. "This project is for the public; there is no doubt about that at all," he said. He also added that he would address the community later this week.

POPCORN

Rice and shine

Ahead of a global investment meet, the Telangana government is naming a prominent road in Hyderabad after Donald Trump. That's an unusual way to salute good ole Dolaand. The US prez is now out to impose higher tariffs on Indian rice, which he thinks is being dumped in his country. Trump-gaaru, we don't take such taunts to heart. Ey babu, trump-ku biryani pumpee ra! (Hey, send Trump some biryani.)

EVENTS

Art showcase
The India Art Festival will showcase works by 300 artists from across the country from December 12 to 14, 11 am onwards, at Palace Grounds (Gate 5), Jayamahal. Tickets online.

Christmas market
The Women Entrepreneurs Chambers & Association Network is hosting 'Christmas Bazaar' on December 12 and 13, 10 am to 7 pm, at St Patrick's Church Mini Hall, Brigade Road. Entry free.

Solo exhibition
R B Murari's art show 'Beauty Isn't The Point' is on view until December 14, 10 am, at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumarakrupa Road.

Musical
The All Peoples Church will stage a musical titled 'If There Was No Christmas' on December 13 (6 pm) and 14 (10.30 am and 6 pm), at St John's Auditorium, Koramangala. Entry free. Register on apcwo.org/ChristmasMusical.

A cafe in Koramangala offers amenities for group studies. PIC: DIALOGUES CAFÉ

Students flocking to cafes for study time

The structured environment and readily available refreshments make coffee shops more convenient, students say

ASHIKA GOWDA
TEAM METROLIFE

Student study groups have found a new venue — coffee shops. Cafes across the city have been offering special prices and facilities after noticing a growing trend of students using their premises to prepare for exams and exchange notes.

The trend is noticeable in localities like Koramangala, J P Nagar, R R Nagar and Indiranagar, which have a large student population. The surge is particularly felt during the exam season. Owners report a 30-40% increase in footfall, especially from December until mid-January, transforming otherwise quiet weekday afternoons into busy hours. "The exam season has contributed to a 10-15% rise in weekday revenue," said a cafe owner, whose shop is located in Koramangala.

Other cafes *Metrolife* spoke to have noticed an 8-10% increase in overall profit due to the student population in the last three to four weeks.

At Dialogues Café in Koramangala, the space is intentionally designed to be cosy and increase focus, says owner Uday Kiran. Amenities like reliable WiFi, ample plug points, dedicated reading corners, and a quiet and calming ambience, make it ideal for study groups, he adds. "We also don't play music, which makes it easy to focus on study or work," he explains.

To make it more student-friendly, the cafe has day passes and flexible billing options, allowing them to work comfortably without feeling pressured to order repeatedly. Other cafes do not offer daily passes; however students are permitted to order any one snack or beverage and continue studying until the cafe closes. "These passes ensure predictable revenue while keeping the space accessible," Kiran explains.

Students say cafes offer a more structured environment that motivates them to stay focused. Rishitha R, a science student currently in 2nd PUC, frequently studies at Dialogues Café. She says, "When I study at home, I get distracted easily. Here, the calming ambience and seeing others working helps me stay disciplined."

Having a dedicated space to work, comfortable seating and the readily available beverages and snacks are some of the other factors that have driven the trend, students say.

Playtime restrictions are stressing out kids in B'luru

Counsellors flag higher level of irritability, withdrawal and burnout among teenagers

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Counsellors say children and adolescents in Bengaluru are increasingly experiencing stress due to curtailed playtime, rigid schedules, and parental pressure. They say many teenagers aged 14 to 18 feel they have little control over their routines.

According to a report, a teenager recently fled the city and travelled as far as Delhi after feeling overwhelmed by his parents refusing him playtime. The boy is academically bright.

City-based counsellors say learning gaps from the pandemic, along with parents' anxieties as well as expectations for their wards to achieve what they could not, have intensified stress among children. Such children tend to show poor concentration or behavioural issues such as irritability or defiance. Most of these cases involve children juggling schoolwork and tuitions, with almost no downtime.

'Lack of control'

D Sherin Priscilla, a counsellor at a Fraser Town school for over a year, recalls a 13-year-old whose mother "strictly controlled his schedule and discouraged him from playing basketball and joining the NCC". After counselling, he opened up to his father about the matter and chose NCC.

She also recalls a 12-year-old who had "little time for leisure" between school and tuition classes. His parents worked night shifts and ensured he was occupied during the day.

Neha Poonacha, a counsellor at a Hennur school, recounts a student who became withdrawn after his parents confiscated his gaming equipment. He had been spending 3-4 hours a day gaming and missing homework. "A proper schedule is important in most cases," she advises.

Experts say most of these cases involve children juggling schoolwork and tuitions. It leaves them with almost no downtime.

Psychologist Sushma Kaushik says boys often express distress through aggression or risk-taking, while girls tend to internalise it and do everything their parents want. She warns that extreme reactions like running away can result from a child facing "prolonged criticism and feeling a lack of control".

'Leisure, a waste of time'

Sherin says about 80% of the 10- to 17-year-olds she has counselled show signs of stress from being denied playtime. Counsellor Sharanya Misra, who works with two Whitefield schools, has handled about 15 such cases in the past year. Neha says that 20-30% of the 700 students she has seen since May have faced similar restrictions. Parents of such children often cite excessive gaming or poor time management to explain why they curb playtime.

Child and adolescent psychiatrist Dr Arohi Vardhan notes that cases of children feeling overwhelmed by tuition-heavy schedules and parental expectations that "every hour must be productive" have increased by at least 40% in the last decade. Sushma, who manages a non-profit mental health helpline, says her centre sees 30-50 children each month. Nearly half of them show behavioural issues linked to overscheduling and restricted playtime.

Adolescent counsellor Maullika Sharma adds that anxiety over college admissions and careers often leads parents to micromanage. They label socialising and hobbies as "wasting time", a pattern that can continue into college.

SOLUTIONS

Experts say easing such pressure requires open communication, flexible schedules, and restoring a child's sense of agency. Sushma stresses that irritability and withdrawal signal the need for better connection and less control.

Neha helps students create balanced routines "to show parents they can manage academics while leaving room for hobbies".

Many like Dr Arohi recommend at least an hour of unstructured playtime daily, and also giving children leeway to make small decisions. Family therapy and restructured routines, she says, help reduce confrontation within families and restore balance.

Ex-corporate employee now drives auto

In a viral video, Rakesh B Pal says that while money is necessary, finding purpose in life matters more

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Once a corporate professional, Rakesh B Pal is now an auto rickshaw driver. He converses in English and Kannada with passengers, quotes popular books and theories, and shares tips on navigating life's challenges. He started posting about his auto driver life on his Instagram account on November 26 and currently has around 8,600 followers.

The 37-year-old told *Metrolife* that he quit his corporate career in 2022 after facing "bullying and manipulation". He says his hearing challenges made him a target, and some seniors, threatened by his talent, tried to hold him back. He claims he also faced difficulties at home and was in therapy, but quit when "it did not work".

An Instagram post in which he urges people not to fear starting over and to find a purpose has garnered around 33,000 views and 19,000 shares. Rakesh experimented with food delivery and bike taxis and even considered opening a tea shop, but felt driving an auto would bring him freedom and meaningful interactions.

On one ride, a woman tipped him Rs 100 after discovering they were both learning German. With other passengers, he has discussed politics and the economy, and whether expecting 10-minute deliveries is fair when even ambulances cannot reach their destination so quickly.

His confident "Good morning" or "Good afternoon" greetings spark curiosity among his passengers. "When I explain why I left my career, they say, 'At least you are free now' or 'You are doing what you like,'" he says. Some suggest he return to a stable career; some don't like an auto driver giving them advice.

Born and raised in Uttarahalli and Padmanabhanagar, Rakesh avoids discussing his education, saying he doesn't value it. He also remains vague about his corporate jobs, revealing only that he worked in training roles earning over a lakh per month. Today, he completes 50-60 rides a day, earning Rs 800-1,000. "I am happy now," he says, adding that it took years of effort, including martial arts and dance, to take control of his life.

Rakesh B Pal,37, started driving an auto rickshaw about 20 days ago. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

CITY MIX

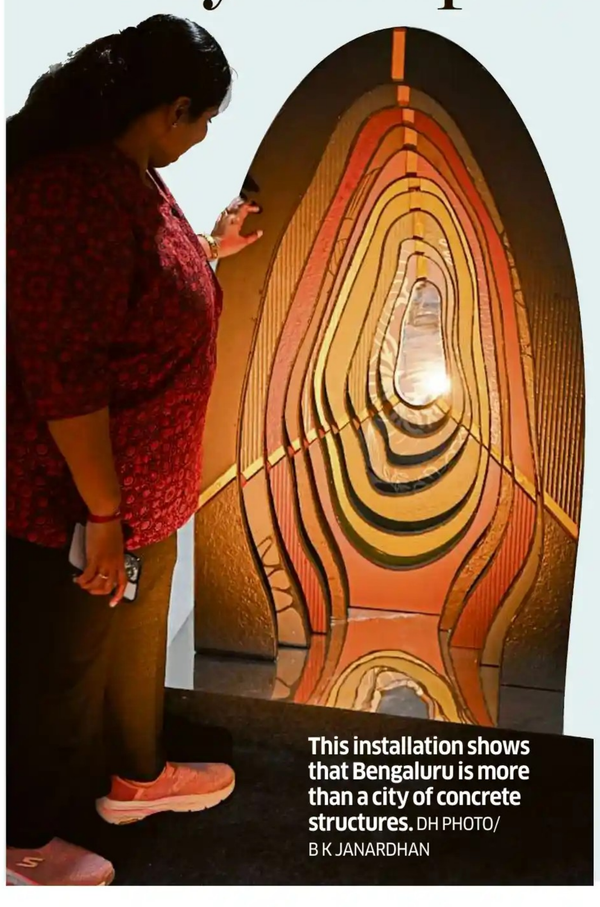
URA memorial lecture by Sanskrit scholar from US

Frederick M Smith, a Sanskrit scholar from the University of Iowa, will deliver the annual U R Ananthamurthy Memorial Lecture on December 14, 11 am, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. Drawing on nearly five decades of research, Smith will explore how various communities have interpreted the moral undercurrents in the 'Mahabharata'. He will examine how ideas of dharma and adharma are addressed in the epic and how these concepts continue to resonate in contemporary India.
To RSVP, visit bangaloreinternationalcentre.org.

Accessibility-enabled concert of Vijay Prakash

Vijay Prakash's December 13 concert at Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield (6 pm), will be accessibility enabled for people with locomotor disabilities, including wheelchair, crutch, and walker users. The event, titled 'Vijayamahotsavam', is a collaboration between Noizz Entertainment, EnAble India, and the Purple Economy Movement. It will feature accessible entry, seating and exits, clear ramps, and accessible portable toilets. Pre-booked food will be delivered to guests' seats. Tickets online.

4-day fest spotlights design in daily life



This installation shows that Bengaluru is more than a city of concrete structures. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

It brings together 350 architecture, design, and construction firms

TEAM METROLIFE

Around 350 architecture, design, and construction firms are showcasing collaborative exhibits and award-winning projects at the fifth edition of Designuru 5.0.

The four-day festival opened at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath on Thursday, with a focus on how design shapes everyday life and cultures.

The theme of human-nature interconnectedness runs through most of the 20 installations on display. In 'City Lights and Lost Flights', a bird named Maya returns to the city with her flock to find their former habitat overtaken by concrete and harsh lighting. Moved by their distress, residents choose to make amends, says a volunteer, explaining the concept. Nearby, a block of jagged marble hangs from a sprawling tree, held up by high-tension wires. A mock leaf shaped as a diya rests on it, lending it the feel of a "sacred ground". The installation depicts that when nature informs design, even hard materials can appear "softer".

'What Knot' is a series of twisted yet continuous bolster cushions, and it conveys that humans are not superior but just one part of biodiversity. 'Our Understanding' drew many visitors for both its engineering and message. A volunteer exhibitor describes it as a "tensegrity structure" where a 100-kg tiled ceiling remains suspended, counterbalanced by a marble base. In nature too, survival depends on forces that oppose yet support one another, he explains.

Eight colleges are showcasing their work as well. One comprises five stained-glass panels with a ribbon motif running across them. It is an ode to cancer survivors.

Architect Neelam Manjunath, known for her work with bamboo, is exhibiting a model of the award-winning Toda 2.0, which adapts traditional huts of the Toda people in the Nilgiris for contemporary use. She has added windows, and utilised regenerative materials. Another highlight is a section of drawings by South African architect Peter Rich.

The Indian Institute of Interior Designers, Bengaluru chapter, is hosting the festival. Its chairperson, architect V Vishwanath, says the next three days will feature an exhibition of homes designed for compact sites, a demonstration of 3D printing for residential projects, and workshops for students.

Until December 14, at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumarakrupa Road. 10 am to 8 pm. Entry free.

Function hall owner, parents of minor girl & groom booked for child marriage

BENGALURU, DHNS

The KR Puram police have booked a wedding hall owner, the parents of an underage girl, her groom, and his parents for facilitating the child marriage.

The police action followed a complaint from Shivaprasad Yadav, an official from the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), on December 10.

He procured the girl's birth certificate from her school and approached the police seeking action against all those involved, including the wedding hall owner, who allegedly facilitated the event.

Officials got wind of the matter through Childline, a national helpline run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

The marriage reportedly took place on October 26.

According to the FIR, the girl was 16 years and seven months old at marriage, making the nuptial a violation of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.

Police named the owner of Crown Palace Wedding Hall as accused number 1. The 20-year-old bridegroom and his parents have been listed as accused number 2, while the minor girl's parents have been named as accused number 3.

A police probe found the girl's elder sister had arranged the marriage as she believed it would help ward off "ghosts" afflicting the minor.

Syed Ayat, the wedding hall owner, denied facilitating the marriage, claiming the ceremony had taken place elsewhere and the family had only booked the hall for dinner.

"I am not responsible for verifying the couple's documents," he said.

Hi-tech system aids Hoysala police rescue unconscious man

Geo-location system sends officers to the spot in just 11 mins

BENGALURU, DHNS

Hoysala personnel shift the unconscious man for urgent medical care on Tuesday.

Police on Tuesday demonstrated their tech-driven rapid emergency response system while acting on a call to rescue an unconscious man in Banashankari. They reached the spot in 11 minutes after a citizen alerted the Namma 112 emergency helpline.

The incident occurred on Tuesday morning when a passerby noticed a man lying collapsed on Kaveri Nagar Road in Banashankari 2nd Stage and called the emergency number.

Command centre personnel used the geo-location-enabled dispatch system to alert the on-duty Hoysala-148 unit.

An assistant sub-inspector and a police constable from the Banashankari station were sent to the location. The officers reached the spot, assessed the situation and shifted the unconscious man to Victoria Hospital for medical attention.

A police officer confirmed that the person received treatment and was later reunited with his family.

A statement from the police, "The incident underscores the effectiveness of geo-location-enabled dispatch systems and rapid response protocols, which are part of the city's Safe City initiative."

Man booked for duping two people of Rs 54 lakh in property deals

BENGALURU, DHNS: Indiranagar police are searching for a man who allegedly cheated two people of Rs 54 lakh in real estate deals, officials said.

The suspect has been identified as BV Sridhar.

The victim, 32-year-old Rekha I, from Udayanagar, told police in her complaint that she met Sridhar in 2020. He told her to contact him if she was interested in purchasing property, as he dealt in real estate.

Sridhar met Rekha, who worked with an NGO, again in October 2021 in Bengaluru and told her that he would secure a commercial site for her for a low price. She agreed and sought a plot in Davanagere. He allegedly said he would sell them his plot for Rs 13 lakh, and they reached an agreement.

Between November 2021 and December 2021, Rekha wired him Rs 13 lakh from her and her mother's bank accounts. On November 25, 2021, the plot was transferred to Rekha's mother and registered in her name, the FIR stated.

Rekha alleged that in March 2022, Sridhar made another offer and she paid him Rs 31 lakh, including Rs 4.50 lakh in cash, for land in either Bengaluru or Tumakuru.

She further stated that he later took her to Davanagere on the pretext of arranging a joint registration for loans and instead retransferred the earlier plot back to his name.

Rekha told police that Sridhar had also cheated her colleague Veena of Rs 10 lakh using a similar method.

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH (DME), MEGHALAYA
PASTEUR HILLS, SHILLONG
Email ID: pasteurinstituteshil@gmail.com Tel No.: 0364-2591510/94851 06663

No. DHSME&R/SMC/Tender/IV/22/2025/10063 Dtd: Shillong, the 10th December, 2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Government of Meghalaya invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders for the **"Supply and Installation of Equipment/Items for Skill Laboratory as per NMC norms at Shillong Medical College, Shillong"** under the Directorate of Health Services Medical Education and Research (DME) Pasteur Hills Shillong, Meghalaya.

Detailed Bid Documents, including eligibility criteria and submission guidelines, are available on the websites: **www.meghealth.gov.in** and **www.nhmmeghalaya.nic.in**.

Sd/- **Director of Health Services**
Medical Education & Research (DME)
Meghalaya, Pasteur Hills, Shillong

MIPR No.: 2388
Dated: 11-12-2025

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E-Tenders are invited by the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Salem - 636 005 for the following work.

Sl. No.	DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION
1	Tender Notice Number and date	**GEM/2025/B/6962302 dated 03.12.2025**
2	Name of Work	Outcome Based Comprehensive Cleaning Contract at Salem Railway Colony & Divisional Office for a period of 730 days inclusive of garbage disposal
3	Estimate Value	₹ **1,21,78,453/-**
4	Earnest Money	₹ **2,10,900/-**
5	Tender Closing Date and Time	24.12.2025 at 20:00 Hrs.
6	Web Address	**http://www.gem.gov.in**

The firms registered in GeM portal are only eligible to participate in this tender. For details of bid submission, please refer website portal "**http://www.gem.gov.in**".
For details about scope of work, approximate value of tender, location and other documents, please refer website portal "**http://www.gem.gov.in**".
Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderers to check any Corrigendum is issued for any correction; deletion or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website and the same shall be taken into account while uploading the tender. For further details please visit website at "http://www.gem.gov.in".

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer
Southern Railway, Salem - 636 005

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PCMM/WCR on behalf of the President of India, invites the following advertised tenders through E-procurement System. No manual/postal offers shall be entertained. Tenders can be accessed under the link website **https://ireps.gov.in** for details and for submission of Tender.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Short Description	Tendered Qty.	Due Date
1	8125WCR TP-04	Manufacture and Supply of Elastic Rail Clip MK-V with Flat Toe for 60 Kg UIC/52 Kg Rail	31600000 Nos.	06.01.2026
2	38254177A	Spares of APM	2178 Sets	15.01.2026
3	20254446A	METALLISED CARBON STRIPS SUITABLE FOR HIGH REACH PANTOGRAPH	502 Nos.	19.01.2026

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B-26, Sector 07, New Rajendra Nagar Raipur, Phone 0771-4059181
E-mail:- cghandloom@gmail.com

INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI): MARKETING EXECUTIVE (REVISES)

The Chhattisgarh State Handloom Development and Marketing Cooperative Federation Ltd., Raipur, (C.G.) invites applications for the appointment of a Marketing Executive on a contractual basis to promote Chhattisgarh's handloom products. The candidate must possess an MBA from a recognized, accredited institution and have a minimum of two years' experience as a Marketing Executive in a reputed handloom/ Textiles industry or platform. The initial appointment will be for one year, extendable based on satisfactory performance. The contract salary of Marketing Executive will be negotiable.

Interested candidates may submit their application along with a detailed bio-data and supporting documents to this office within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

S-46185/6

Sd/-
Managing Director

Chhattisgarh State Handloom Development & Marketing Co-Operative Federation Limited
B-26, Sector 07, New Rajendra Nagar Raipur, Phone 0771-4059181
E-mail:- cghandloom@gmail.com

Expression of Interest (EOI): Textile Designer (Revises)

Chhattisgarh State Handloom Development and Marketing Cooperative Federation Ltd., Raipur,(C.G.) invites applications for the position of Textile Designer on a contractual basis. The candidate must hold a Bachelor's degree in **Textile Design** from NIFT/NID, or any other recognized institute of repute, with a minimum of two years' experience in a reputed handloom industry or platform. The initial appointment will be for one year, extendable based on satisfactory performance. The contract salary of Textile Designer will be negotiable.

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DIC joint director in Lokayukta net

TUMAKURU, DHNS: The joint director of the District Industries Centre (DIC) and an assistant were arrested by the Lokayukta police while they were receiving bribe money here on Thursday.

The police said that the joint director D K Lingaraju and his assistant N S Prasad had demanded a bribe of Rs 1.25 lakh from a small-scale industrialist for releasing the subsidy amount of Rs 18.75 lakh given by the state government.

The entrepreneur had paid an advance of Rs 10,000 and made a complaint to the Lokayukta.

Govt wants taluk hospitals, CHCs to function 24/7: Minister

'1.5K MBBS docs are being hired under compulsory med service'

BELAGAVI, DHNS

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said on Thursday that the availability of obstetricians, anaesthetists, paediatricians and physicians is being made compulsory as the government wants taluk hospitals and community health centres (CHC) to work round-the-clock.

Rao was replying to a question by Kushtagi BJP MLA Doddanagouda H Patil on the availability of staff at his constituency's taluk hospital.

"We want all taluk hospitals to provide 24/7 services," Rao said.

"In many places, there's one obstetrician, one anaesthetist and one paediatrician. They don't work after 4 pm," he said.

"We will now have two obstetricians, two anaesthetists, two paediatricians, one radiologist and one physician compulsorily. Maternal deaths happen because of a lack of services. If people know that doctors are available in taluk hospitals, they won't go to district hospitals, which get overcrowded," Rao said.

Karkala BJP MLA V Sunil Kumar asked Rao to explain a note issued by the health secretary on moving specialists from community health centres (CHCs) where there are fewer than 30 deliveries. "This criterion may cause a problem," he said.

Rao said the government wants even CHCs to provide 24/7 services. "At CHCs where performance is low, if we move out one gynaecologist, we'll have two MBBS doctors and a physician as well," he said, adding that currently, CHCs stop working after 4 pm.

The minister lamented that government doctors draw a salary of Rs 2-3 lakh with little work for them to do.

"They do 3-5 deliveries a month. It's zero sometimes. They take our salary, but practise privately. What's the point? If you're happy with just having a doctor in your village, then fine. But we want people to find doctors and medicines at any time of the day. Otherwise, they'll go to private hospitals," he said.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao speaks in the Legislative Assembly during winter session, at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on Thursday.

DINESH GUNDU RAO
Health Minister

"In many places, there's one obstetrician, one anaesthetist and one paediatrician. They don't work after 4 pm.

Appointments

Around 1,500 MBBS doctors are being hired against vacancies under the compulsory medical service requirement, Rao said.

"We wanted to do the same with 800-900 postgraduate doctors, but they went to court. The case is in the final stage," he said.

Rao said workload mapping is being done to deploy 600 nurses, 400 lab technicians and 400 pharmacists to be taken on contract.

"An order has been issued to recruit 223 doctors. It will be given to the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) in January, and the process will be completed in April-May," Rao said.

Social Boycott Bill proposes 3-year jail, Rs 1 lakh fine

BELAGAVI, DHNS

The government introduced in the Assembly a Bill to prohibit and criminalize social boycott of persons, especially by self-appointed caste panchayats, with a jail term of up to three years and a fine of Rs 1 lakh.

The Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, piloted by Law Minister H K Patil, lists 19 forms of ostracization, which includes refusal to do business, denying opportunities, obstruction from participation in events or blocking access to facilities and cutting-off of ties.

"It has been observed that unconstitutional practices such as boycotts, imposition of various punishments by extrajudicial bodies such as caste or community panchayats etc are still in practice (sic) in various communities in the state," the Bill states.

"The existing laws are found to be inadequate in dealing with such practices."

Any assembly or congregation of persons to discuss imposing a social boycott will be "unlawful" and attract a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh. Aiding or abetting social boycotts will result in up to three years' jail and Rs 1 lakh in fine.

Under the proposed law, the government will appoint a Social Boycott Prohibition Officer to detect offences.

GBG Bill

The government also introduced the Greater Bengaluru Governance (Second Amendment) Bill in the Assembly on Thursday. The Bill seeks to include Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs, MLAs and MLCs as members of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). The chief secretary and heads of the urban development and finance departments will also get seats in the GBA, as per the Bill.

'Don't judge law & order situation by vehicle thefts'

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara on Thursday requested the Opposition members not to judge the law and order situation in the state based on vehicle theft cases reported.

Replying to a question by BJP member Kishore Kumar Putturu, the minister said tracing stolen vehicles — especially 2-wheelers — remains a major challenge for the police.

He said offenders dismantle stolen vehicles soon after stealing them and then sell spare parts, some even sell in neighbouring states, making recovery difficult.

"In many cases, vehicle owners themselves request police to issue closure reports (C reports) so they can claim insurance for stolen vehicles. Law and order is stable and one should not judge it just by counting vehicle theft cases," he said.

The minister informed the House that 13,498 cases related to theft, dacoity, and robbery were registered in 2023, a total of 11,706 cases in 2024, and 8,413 cases in 2025, up to Nov 15.

ARGUS EYED

A policeman keeps vigil from atop Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, where the winter session of the legislature is in progress, in Belagavi on Thursday. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

13 medalists at int'l meets got jobs: CM

BELAGAVI, DHNS: The government has so far recruited 13 medal-winning athletes from Olympics, Paralympics, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games to encourage athletes, CM Siddaramaiah told the Council.

He said the government had introduced reservation for sportspersons in jobs to encourage sports. The CM was replying to a question by Congress' Ivan D'Souza.

"We are providing reservation in jobs to encourage sports, including 3% each in forest and police departments and 2% elsewhere," he said.

More PLs for cops: Fin dept nod soon

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara told the Council that the plan to increase paid leaves (PL) for police department employees from the existing 15 days to 30 days was before the finance department and it would be approved soon.

Replying to Congress' D T Srinivas, he said, "We will even try to bring amendments to qualification requirements to recruit candidates for police department. We have even engineering graduates and double degree holders working as constables".

State to file SLP in SC against HC order on guest lecturers

BELAGAVI, DHNS

The government will file a special leave petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court, challenging the High Court order on the compliance of UGC guidelines (of having NET, SLET or PhD) while selecting guest lecturers for government first grade colleges.

After MLCs across party lines demanded relief for more than 6,000 guest lecturers who do not have UGC-specified qualifications, by enacting a special law or through any other model, Higher Education Minister M C Sudhakar told the Council on Thursday that an executive order to file an SLP before the Supreme Court is already issued after availing of legal opinion.

"We are in favour of guest lecturers, and we are also studying the model of Haryana government in a similar matter related to the technical education department there," he said, in reply to a calling attention motion by Congress MLC Prakash Hukkeri. Sudhakar also suggested BJP leaders to urge Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan take steps to bring changes in UGC guidelines allowing the state government to make special rules to select guest lecturers lacking NET, SLET or PhD qualification. As guest lecturers are selected temporarily against vacant posts, they cannot be given job security as per rules now, he added.

S L Bhoje Gowda, S V Sankanur, Hemalatha Nayak, N Ravikumar, Ramesh Babu and other MLCs stressed the need to provide 'justice' for guest lecturers who have served for over 20 years with lesser salary.

Govt mulls second police commissionerate for B'luru

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara told the Council on Thursday that the government would examine establishing a second police commissionerate for Bengaluru city, and would take a decision after studying the effectiveness of having multiple police commissionerates in other metropolitan cities like Mumbai and Delhi.

Congress MLC K Govindaraju, who moved a calling attention motion on the issue, and Leader of Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy stressed the need to bifurcate the existing police commissionerate with two police commissioners, in the wake of the explosive growth of the city, resulting in increasing crimes and traffic congestion, after Parameshwara said there is no such proposal under consideration by the government.

Agreeing for reconsideration, the minister said, "We will send a team to other metropolitan cities which have multiple police commissionerates, to study whether they have resulted in improvements, and then we will take a decision."

Earlier, Parameshwara was of the opinion that creating a second post of police commissioner for Bengaluru city was not essential at present, but that need may arise in future under 'Greater Bengaluru' concept.

"We feel bad while speaking about the traffic situation in Bengaluru, and all blame the police. But, the problem is not with the police, but is related to the infrastructure. Additional posts of police officials have been created, while infrastructure projects like outer ring road and tunnel road are also planned," he noted.

Govindaraju felt that one police commissioner cannot handle a city with 1.5 crore population. After Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said some policemen are tarnishing the image of the entire department, Govindaraju suggested checking the background of policemen while posting them in Bengaluru. T A Sharavana suggested bringing in stricter traffic rules.

4 lakh jobs vacant in govt departments

BELAGAVI, DHNS

Karnataka has around 4 lakh jobs vacant in various departments, including public universities and board and corporations for the last three years.

Highest vacancies are at department of school education and literacy with 79,694 posts, followed by health and family welfare with 37,572 and home department 28,188. Least vacancies are in environment department with only 10 posts.

The state has over 43 departments and 100 boards and corporations. The boards and corporations alone have 1,01,420 vacancies. At the 37 public universities, 14,677 posts are vacant, highest at University of Agriculture Sciences, Bengaluru, with 2,817. Second comes Karnatak University Dharwad with 1,263 posts.

UP FOR GRABS

4,00,978
Total vacancies

2,84,881
In 43 depts

1,01,420
100 boards & corpns

14,677
37 universities

Filling of vacancies at various departments was one of the poll promises by the Congress, but even after 2.5 years in power, the government has not fulfilled the promise.

Replying to a question by BJP's Hanumanth Nirani, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday told the Council, "We have filled 84,844 posts through outsourcing. The delay was because of internal reservation issue. Now, it has been resolved and we will fill up the vacancies," the CM said.

However, Siddaramaiah told the House that it was not possible to fill all vacancies at a time.

"The finance department has to give clearance. We will not say all posts will be filled. It will happen in a phased manner," he said.

The CM informed the House that the finance department had given approval to fill over 24,300 posts.

When Opposition members blamed the Congress government over the large number of posts being vacant, Siddaramaiah said, "How many posts have you filled? Were there no vacancies during your tenure?".

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passed away peacefully on 11th Dec 2025. She lived with grace, strength, and unwavering resilience till the end. Her warmth and wisdom touched everyone who knew her.
Visitation – She will be at her residence No. 30, 11th Main, 14th Cross, Wilson Garden, Bangalore until 9:00 AM tomorrow, 12th December-2025
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CHANGE OF NAME
I, NALLAN CHAKRAVARTHI CHITRALEKA W/o. S. Lakshminarayanan, R/a E 404, Renaissance Temple Bells, Opp. ISKCON Temple, Industrial Suburb, Bengaluru- 560022 have changed my Name to CHITRA LAKSHMINARAYANAN vide affidavit dated: 28.11.2025 sworn before Notary K.P. Ramesh, Bengaluru.

I, SHIVAAJI P S/O Venkatesh P R/O 150/2, Main Road, Near Shivali Talkies, Devaraj Urs Badavane, Davanagere, Davangere, Karnataka - 577006, have changed my name to Shivaaji Survammi Rajvarman.

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Govt school admissions in state fell by 17 lakh in 15 years

Mushrooming pvt schools cited as one of the reasons

BELAGAVI, DHNS

Enrolment in state-run schools has dropped by 17 lakh in the last 15 years, the Karnataka government confirmed to the Assembly on Thursday.

School Education & Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa said enrolment had dropped due to parents' fancy for English education, preference of central syllabus, migration and the mushrooming of private schools.

Madhu said this in a written reply to BJP's S Suresh Kumar, a former education minister himself.

The government has initiated measures to improve admissions in state-run schools, the minister said.

"Between 2018 and 2025, bilingual (Kannada and English) pre-primary sections have been started in 6,675 government schools. At present, 9,522 government schools have bilingual education from Classes 1 to 5," Madhu Bangarappa stated.

From November 14, 2025 to June 30, 2026, the department has taken up a statewide campaign to attract students to government schools.

"Computer labs have been set up in 5,437 government primary and high schools. In 2025-26, computer labs are being set up in 1,072 schools. A total of 3,862 schools have smart-class facilities. There are innovative labs in 173 schools," the minister stated.

The Department of School Education and Literacy is holding a campaign from November 14, 2025 to June 30, 2026 for attracting students to government schools. DH FILE PHOTO

Further, science labs are being set up in 489 schools and 614 pre-university colleges. Vocational education is offered in 375 schools, he said.

Under the Samagra Shikshana Karnataka project, the government has provided Rs 838.75 crore for the development and repair of classrooms, toilets and furniture.

"Steps are being taken to recruit 5,267 teachers in the Kalyana Karnataka region and another 5,000 in other districts. To overcome the shortage of teachers, the government has roped in 43,526 guest teachers and 5,508 guest lecturers," Madhu Bangarappa stated.

To improve the quality of education, the minister said the government has started lesson-based assessments, Maru Sinchana, Jnanasethu, Kalika Deepa, Ganiga Ganaka and other programmes.

"One government school in every gram panchayat will be upgraded as Karnataka Public School (KPS), which will offer pre-primary to pre-university education in the same premises," he stated.

At present, there are 309 Karnataka Public Schools. Another 900 schools are being upgraded as the flagship KPS.

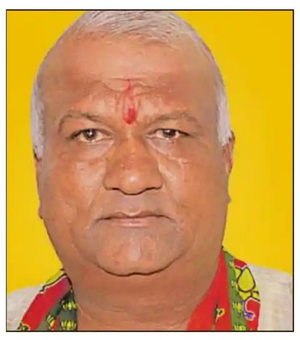
375 pvt schools ditch state syllabus

A total of 375 private schools have migrated from the state-prescribed syllabus to the one offered by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) between 2022 and 2024, the government told the Assembly. Sixty-two schools in 2022, 169 in 2023 and 144 in 2024 switched to the central syllabus.

Will fight till death to get statehood for NK, says Congress MLA

Kage seeks Rs 5k-cr grant for region akin to Kalyana K'taka

BELAGAVI, DHNS



Raju Kage

Congress MLA from Kagwad Raju Kage said in the Assembly on Thursday that he would fight for a separate state for North Karnataka "till his death".

Speaking during a discussion on the problems of the region, Kage said the revenue department had granted Rs 8.6 crore to build a Praja Soudha in Kagwad (Belagavi district), but had given Rs 16 crore for similar Praja Soudha in Kadur taluk of Chikkamagaluru district.

"Why this discrimination? What mistake have we done? That's why I sought a separate state. Everyone has opposed it, but I will keep making the demand. Even if all other MLAs oppose, I will fight for this cause till death," he said.

In November, the legislator had written a letter to President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, seeking statehood for North Karnataka.

Referring to the decision to provide Rs 5,000 crore for the development of Kalyana Karnataka region), the Kagwad MLA said he wasn't against it, but sought a similar grant to Kittur Karnataka region too.

Seeking Rs 10 crore for each constituency, Kage said, "If we come and beg 100 times, they give us 15-20 paise. This has been the situation of North Karnataka MLAs".

He said there were many people in his region, including well-off persons, who hadn't even seen Bengaluru.

The Kagwad MLA also took severe exception to the fact that no action had been taken against revenue secretary Rajendra Kumar Kataria, despite him moving a breach of privilege against him several months ago.

At this point, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka and his deputy Arvind Bellad intervened. Ashoka said officials were not "co-operating" and that IAS officers were in "jolly mood".

Expelled BJP leader Basanagouda Patil Yatnal seconded Kage's point that Kittur Karnataka region should be given Rs 5,000 crore too.

Reeling out some statistics, the MLA said south Karnataka had more districts, political representation and several other benefits compared to north Karnataka.

However, his data set in many cases combined coastal Karnataka (a separate region) with north Karnataka.

He took indirect potshots at his bete noire and BJP state president B Y Vijayendra and his father and former chief minister B S Yediyurappa.

HM warns of razing houses if rented out to drug peddlers

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Reiterating zero tolerance towards the drug menace in the state, the government has warned the landlords of bulldozing the houses, if rented out to drug peddlers.

Replying to a query by Congress MLC Abdul Jabbar in the Legislative Council on Thursday, Home Minister G Parameshwara said, "Foreign nationals, especially students from African Countries are involved in drug peddling. More than 300 foreign nationals who were staying in Karnataka and arrested in drug peddling have been deported to their home countries. While tracing the peddlers we have tracked house owners who have rented out the houses to foreign nationals, and if necessary we will even bulldoze the houses."

Saying that the government has seized and destroyed several tonnes of drugs worth crores of rupees, Parameshwara stated that the government has zero tolerance towards drug menace. "The production, sale, and consumption of contraband are increasing day by day globally. Inter-state and international networks are operating for enormous profits. Since these networks are active in almost all countries, the drug menace has become universal."

"An anti-narcotics task force (ANTF) has been established under the the Additional Director General of Police to combat and prevent the spread of narcotics in the state. This is the country's first task force exclusively dedicated to combat drugs and they are visiting all the districts," he said.

According to the Home department data, 4,168 cases were registered across the state in 2024 and 1,833 were convicted while 2,214 are pending trial. In 2025, the numbers increased to 5,747 cases and 1,079 were convicted while 3,414 cases pending in various courts.

My chair is strong, check yours, CM tells Oppn members

BELAGAVI, DHNS: The Legislative Council on Thursday witnessed a lighter discussion about the ongoing power tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

While replying to a question, Siddaramaiah complained to the council secretariat about the chair and said he was not able to stand properly because of the chair and requested to move a bit. Immediately, the Opposition members started pulling his leg by saying, "Your chair is in trouble". But the CM replied in a lighter note and said, "Whenever a chair is in trouble, we should openly tell it. My chair is strong, don't worry. Check your chair."

Interestingly, Shivakumar was also present in the House and listening to the conversation silently.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah points to his chair during a banter in the Legislative Council in Suvarna Vidhana Soudha at Belagavi on Thursday. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

No leadership change for now, says Yathindra

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Power tussle in Congress escalated again on Thursday when Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son Dr Yathindra categorically ruled out change in leadership for now.

Yathindra, an MLC, told reporters: "There's no tussle for CM's post. I've told you, everything is clear. The high command has clearly said that as of now, there will be no change".

Reacting to this, Siddaramaiah said: "The high command will make the final decision." Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar said the CM would reply to Yathindra.

But Yathindra's statement appeared to have antagonised Shivakumar's camp. "If I speak, it is balatkara (forcible). If he (Yathindra) speaks, it is chamatkara (magic)," Ramanagara MLA Iqbal Hussain said, suggesting that the Congress should issue a notice to Yathindra for indiscipline. Hussain was given a notice in July this year for speaking out of turn.

Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan said, "Does anybody have the guts to change the CM? Only high command can."

3,954 Pocso cases till November this year, says Parameshwara

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Crimes against kids have continued to increase in the state despite various measures.

As per data placed before the Assembly by Home Minister G Parameshwara, till Nov this year, 3,954 cases under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act were booked.

In 2024, a total of 4,078 cases were registered under the Act and the same was 3,091 in 2023 and 3,211 in 2022. However, conviction rate is very low with only 6 in 2025.

"Low conviction is mainly because of parents. They do not have same interest in continuing the case. Many parents worry that children get identified negatively in society and they even fear about identity of kids being revealed. In a majority of cases, parents don't cooperate during further probe," said a child rights activist.

Shockingly, misuse of the Act has also raised concerns. Data shared by the minister showed that in 2022 & 2023, a total of 56 false cases were registered. In 2024, it rose to 65. In 2025, till Nov, 45 false cases were identified.

"Creating awareness about the seriousness of the Act and even introducing punishments to those who file false cases will help prevent misuse," said a rights activist.

On the seriousness of misuse, a senior advocate said, "I myself handled some cases where teachers were targeted by parents. Even questioning students for being absent to school is leading to Pocso cases".

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite Tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for below mentioned work.

Name of the work: Construction of 2nd Floor of car Parking building at Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.

Tender Reference No: KHB/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 676 & IFT No.124/2025-26 Date: 11.12.2025. Amount put to tender: Rs.1,89,36,745/-

Last date for submission of Bid: 18.12.2025 upto 4.00 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Tel: 080-22273511. Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/CP/4390/CCL/2025-26 Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY
Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary.
No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/Various Heads/2025-26/1460
Dt. 10-12-2025.

Short Term Tender Notification (Through KPPP Portal only)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 12 works comprising of approved Building works under 2022-23 KKRDB, 2025-26 Zilla Panchayth Untide, 2025-26 ZP Buildings and maintenance and 2024-25 Flood 5054 through KPPP portal.

Indent No.
1.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21401
2.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21395
3.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21428
4.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21396
5.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21484
6.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21498
7.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21486
8.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21486
9.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21493
10.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT18927/CALL-2
11.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21400
12.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21402

Contractors are required to submit the tender before 17-12-2025 at 4.30 PM by uploading the relevant documents through KPPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from 10-12-2025 to 17-12-2025 at 4.30 PM. Tenders will be opened through KPPP portal on 18-12-2025 at 17.30 PM. Any changes in the notification will be published KPPP website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/775/KSMCA/2025-26

BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED
Office of the Chief Engineer-02, B-SMILE, Room No. 108, Annex-2 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002.

No. B-SMILE/CE-02/TEND/09/2025-26 Date: 10-12-2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Two Cover System (Through KPP Portal only)

The Chief Engineer-02, B-SMILE, Bengaluru invites proposals from project management consultants for Providing Project Management Consultancy services to works taken up under **'Sancharayuktha'** scheme by B-SMILE.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Protection, Improvement of Rajakaluve / Buffer Zone including formation of service road Hebbala Military Area (Sarovara Layout) to Thanisandra Main Road in Bengaluru North City Corporations limits. Provision in Estimate: Rs. 21.58 lakhs.
2	Protection, Improvement of Rajakaluve / Buffer Zone including formation of service road from Thanisandra Main road to Hennur Main Road in Bengaluru North City Corporations limits. Provision in Estimate: Rs. 19.26 lakhs.
(For both works): Amount put to tender : Rs. 40.84 lakhs. EMD: Rs. 40,840/-.	
3	Protection, Improvement of Rajakaluve / Buffer Zone including formation of Kerekodi road from V-Legacy road to R.R. Nagara Arch in Bengaluru West City Corporations limits. Provision in Estimate: Rs. 22.94 lakhs.
4	Protection, Improvement of Rajakaluve / Buffer Zone including formation of service road from Nayandahalli circle to V-Legacy road in Bengaluru West City Corporations limits. Provision in Estimate: Rs. 11.66 lakhs.
(For both works): Amount put to tender : Rs. 34.60 lakhs. EMD: Rs. 34,600/-.	
5	Protection, Improvement of Rajakaluve / Buffer Zone including formation of service road from Bellandur Wasteweir / Outlet to Old Airport road Virginia Mall in Bengaluru East City Corporations limits. Provision in Estimate: Rs. 22.74 lakhs.
6	Protection, Improvement of Rajakaluve / Buffer Zone including formation of service road utilizing property at Wind Tunnel road Bengaluru East City Corporations limits. Provision in Estimate: Rs. 19.98 lakhs.
(For both works): Amount put to tender : Rs. 42.72 lakhs. EMD: Rs. 42,720/-.	

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 12.12.2025, 4.30 pm. (2)** Date of Pre-bid meeting : **17.12.2025 at 3.00 pm. (3)** Last date for receipt of tender documents: **22.12.2025 upto 4.00 pm. (4)** Date of opening of Technical bids: **23.12.2025 at 4.30 pm. (5)** Date of opening of Financial bids: **will be intimated after obtaining approval for technical evaluation.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer-02, B-SMILE

कार्मिक राज्य बीमा निगम
कार्मिक मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम
श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION
Ministry Of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India
क. रा. बी. नि. E. S. I. C.
सत्यमेव जयते

प्रादेशिक कचेरी, कर्नाटक
नं.10, बिन्नीफील्ड्स, बिन्नीपेट, बेंगलूरु - 560 023
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, कर्नाटक
नं10, बिन्नीफील्ड्स, बिन्नीपेट, बेंगलूरु023 560 - .
REGIONAL OFFICE, KARNATAKA
No.10, Binnyfields, Binnypet, Bengaluru – 560 023.
Phone: 080-26742485, Email: rd-karnataka@esic.gov.in
Website: www.esic.gov.in

ENGAGEMENT OF ASSISTANT ENGINEER (CIVIL), ASSISTANT ENGINEER (ELECTRICAL), JUNIOR ENGINEER (CIVIL), JUNIOR ENGINEER (ELECTRICAL) ON CONTRACT BASIS

Applications are invited from Retired Engineers from Central / State PWD or CPSUs/PSUs for the posts of Assistant Engineer (Civil), Assistant Engineer (Electrical), Junior Engineer (Civil) and Junior Engineer (Electrical) on contract basis in Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Regional Office, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
The details along with terms & conditions for engagement of engineers on contract basis are given below.

1	**Post**	**i. Assistant Engineer(Civil) — No. of posts: 01** **ii. Assistant Engineer(Electrical) — No. of posts: 03** **iii. Junior Engineer(Civil) — No. of posts: 03** **iv. Junior Engineer (Electrical) — No. of posts: 01**
2	**Place of Posting**	**i. Assistant Engineer (Civil) - No. of posts: 01** (ESIC Model Hospital, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru) **ii. Assistant Engineer (Electrical) - No. of posts: 03** ESIC Regional Office, Bengaluru - 01, ESIC Model Hospital , Rajajinagar, - 01, ESIC Hospital, Kalaburagi - 01 **iii. Junior Engineer (Civil) - 03** ESIC Regional Office - 01, ESIC Model Hospital , Rajajinagar - 01, ESIC Hospital, Kalaburagi - 01 **iv. Junior Engineer (Electrical)** - No. of posts: 01 (ESIC Hospital, Peenya)
3	**Qualification**	**Assistant Engineer (Civil)** – Degree / Diploma in Civil Engineering from recognized University/Institution. **Assistant Engineer (Electrical)** - Degree / Diploma in Electrical Engineering from recognized University / Institution. **Junior Engineer (Civil)** – Degree / Diploma in Civil Engineering from recognized University / Institution. **Junior Engineer (Electrical)** – Degree / Diploma in Electrical Engineering from recognized University/Institution.
4.	Eligibility	**Assistant Engineer (Civil) -** Candidates who held the post of Assistant Engineer (Civil) or superior post at the time of retirement from Central / State Public Works Department (PWD) or Central/ State Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs/PSUs). **Assistant Engineer (Electrical) -** Candidates who held the post of Assistant Engineer (Electrical) or superior post at the time of retirement from Central / State Public Works Department (PWD) or Central/ State Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs/PSUs). **Junior Engineer(Civil) -** Candidates who held the post of Junior Engineer (Civil) or superior post at the time of retirement from Central / State Public Works Department (PWD) or Central/ State Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs/PSUs). **Junior Engineer (Electrical) -** Candidates who held the post of Junior Engineer (Electrical) or superior post at the time of retirement from Central / State Public Works Department (PWD) or Central/ State Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs/PSUs). (Preference will be given to Retired Government Engineers having experience in building construction and maintenance.)
5.	Maximum Age	**64 years as on 26-12-2025 (last date for submission of application)**
6.	**Remuneration**	For retired employees from pensionable Government employment: Consolidated monthly remuneration as per extant Government norms. The admissible amount would be computed by deducting pension amount from the last drawn Basic salary. For retired employees from non-pensionable Government or Semi- Government employment like Autonomous bodies, PSUs etc.,: Consolidated monthly remuneration as given below would be admissible: For Assistant Engineer : **Rs 45,000/- per month.** For Junior Engineer : **Rs 33,630/- per month.** In addition, they are entitled to TA/DA for tours undertaken for official works, at rates applicable to regular Assistant Engineers/Junior Engineers of ESIC.
7.	Mode of Selection	Interview
8.	Date of Interview	Date and time of the Interview shall be fixed and intimated to the Shortlisted candidates in due course.
9.	Venue for Interview	**ESI Corporation, Regional Office, No.10, Binnyfields, Tank Bund Road, Binnypet, Bengaluru – 560 023.**
10.	**Last date for Submission of application**	Candidates should submit the duly filled in application form (Annexure-A) either by post/ hand/ e-mail on or before **26-12-2025.** Application through **E-mail** may be sent to pmd-ro.kar@esic.gov.in Application through **Speed post** may be addressed to: **Executive Engineer(PMD),** **ESI Corporation, Regional Office,** **No.10, Binnyfields, Tank Bund Road,** **Binnypet, Bengaluru - 560 023.** Application **by hand** may be submitted at the **Property Management Division,** **ESI Corporation, Regional Office,** **No.10, Binnyfields, Tank Bund Road,** **Binnypet, Bengaluru - 560 023.** Annexure-A available at **https://esic.gov.in/recruitments** and https://rokarnataka.esic.gov.in/recruitments under Recruitments Tab. Application should contain Mobile Number and e-mail ID of the applicant. **Call letters for Interview shall be issued through e-mail only.**
11.	**Leave Eligibility**	**Maximum one day leave for every month of completed service in Addition to Government Holidays.** **No other leave with pay would be admissible.**
12.	**Other Conditions**	**A.** Selected candidates will be required to sign an Agreement as per ESIC Headquarters' Letter No. Pt.PS/SE-V/Staff Matter/2013-PMD dated 08.03.2018 (Annexure-I). **B.** Tenure of contract is one year which will be extendable further on yearly basis based on satisfactory performance or until the appointment of a regular incumbent, whichever is earlier. However, no extension shall be granted beyond the age of 65 years.

Note: Candidates are required to bring all their certificates or documents in original along with two sets of self-attested photocopies on the date of Interview.
Place: Bengaluru
Date: 12-12-2025

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PMD)
FOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR
REGIONAL OFFICE, ESIC, KARNATAKA

IPL matches at Chinnaswamy only after safety upgrades?

Justice Cunha panel had suggested measures at stadium

BELAGAVI, DHNS

The Cabinet is said to have decided to allow matches of the upcoming season Indian Premier League (IPL) season at the Chinnaswamy stadium only after the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) complies with safety and security requirements.

According to sources, the Cabinet placed the onus on the KSCA to implement recommendations of the Justice John Michael Cunha Commission's report following the June 4 stampede outside the stadium in which 11 people died. The stampede occurred during celebrations of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) victory in the IPL.

The Commission concluded that the "design and structure" of the stadium were "unsuitable and unsafe" for mass gatherings. Citing "systematic limitations", the Commission had "strongly" recommended relocating events where large crowds are expected to venues that are "better suited".

As many as 11 people died in the stampede outside Chinnaswamy stadium, Bengaluru, on June 4 this year during IPL victory celebrations of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

The Commission has recommended: purpose-built queuing and circulation zones separated from public roads, adequate gates for mass entry and exit (ingress and egress), integrated public transport access points and tourist hubs, emergency evacuation plans compliant with international safety norms, and sufficient parking and drop-off infrastructure to handle attendee volumes.

Newly-elected KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad, a former India pacer, met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar on Wednesday. Shivakumar had said that he wouldn't allow IPL to be shifted outside Bengaluru.

New cess?

The Cabinet is learned to have to approved a Bill to introduce a cess of Rs 1,000 on new vehicles by amending the Karnataka Road Safety Authority Act. This Bill may be introduced in the ongoing session of the legislature here.

Internal quota

The Cabinet is also said to have approved a Bill providing internal reservation for Scheduled Castes by sub-classifying them within their 17% quota for jobs and education. This Bill, too, is coming up in the ongoing session.

MOVIE R | E| V |I| E| W

Machismo on the rampage in Darshan potboiler

PRANATI A S

When legendary French-Swiss filmmaker Jean-Luc Godard said, 'All you need to make a movie is a girl and a gun', little did he know that six decades later, someone would take him too literally!

Murder-accused Darshan's 'The Devil' shows him in a violent avatar, putting girls through hellish abuse and killing people without a second thought.

The only saving grace is that the actor plays a double role — a good Krishna, an aspiring actor. The evil Darshan is Dhanush Rajshekhar, aka *The Devil*, the spoilt child of a corrupt chief minister.

After being outsmarted by his nephews, Chief Minister Rajshekar (played by Mahesh Manjrekar) is convicted of corruption. Desperate to keep his political legacy alive, he wants his son, Dhanush, back from London. When his assistant, Anant Nambiar (Achyuth Kumar), is unable to bring him back, he discovers Krishna — Dhanush's lookalike — and convinces him to impersonate Dhanush, with the promise of a big film.

The good-hearted Krishna ends up giving the party an outrageously fantastic campaign. But what happens when the real Dhanush comes back? The film soon turns into a Darshan vs Darshan and if you thought it was for the chief minister's seat, you are wrong.

Darshan plays a double role in 'The Devil'.

★½☆☆☆

The Devil

Kannada (Theatres)

Director: Prakash

Cast: Darshan, Rachana Rai, Achyuth Kumar, Mahesh Manjrekar

While Krishna's characterisation is heartwarming in parts, it is melodramatic and outdated — Rana Daggubati did it 15 years ago in *Leader*. The problem lies in the titular character. It is one thing for an antagonist to be vile, but another for his actions to be glorified (and even justified). This leads to an excessive male gaze, with the shots panning from cleavage to thigh and revelling in rape and molestation. These sequences are downright nauseating. In what time warp is the director stuck in? Another question is how the CBFC gave the film a U/A certificate. How is this appropriate for children?

Tharun Sudhir set the bar high for Darshan, who delivered a brilliant performance in *Kaatera* (2023). There is nothing much to say about the jailed star's performance in *The Devil*.

While Achyuth Kumar, as usual, is superb, Rachana Rai, who plays a damsel in distress, is only just bearable. It is Mahesh Manjrekar who does full justice to his role. The music, cinematography, and production design offer little for a film mounted on a huge scale and led by a big star.

Residents rescue a crocodile found on Haliyal Road in Dandeli of Uttara Kannada district on Thursday.

Crocodile sneaks into residential area in Dandeli

DANDELI (UTTARA KANNADA DIST), DHNS: A huge crocodile sneaked into a residential area on Haliyal Road in Dandeli on Thursday. However, local residents caught the crocodile and released it into Kali river.

It is said that despite being informed, none from the forest department turned up at the spot. River Kali, which flows at a short distance from the populated area, is home to a large number of crocodiles. They sneak into residential areas by crossing the parapet constructed by the forest department.

Revision of deemed forests: Report in 6 months, says Khandre

District-level review to rectify errors in deemed forest classification

BELAGAVI, DHNS

The government has formed committees under deputy commissioners (DCs) to review a May 2022 notification that identified 3.30 lakh hectares of deemed forests and "delete" parcels that were wrongly classified, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre told the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

The committees have been asked to submit their reports in six months, the minister said while replying to a question by Bangarpet Congress MLA S N Narayanaswamy on farmers being evicted from lands identified as forests in Kolar district.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre makes a statement in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

"The Supreme Court has ordered once a forest, always a forest," Khandre said. "Without a forest clearance, we can't use forest lands for non-forest use."

Khandre said the Supreme Court, in the Godavarman case, ordered that all non-forest lands must be brought under the 'deemed forest' tag.

"All states, including Karnataka, formed a committee. In the first phase, the committee report said there were 10 lakh hectares of deemed forest. There were faults found as even villages were included," he said.

"The previous (BJP) government, in 2022, gave the Supreme Court an affidavit that there were 3.30 lakh hectares of deemed forests. Even this had mistakes, as several villages and schools got included. Now, the Supreme Court has said it must be revised," Khandre said, adding that a joint survey of forest and revenue departments is underway.

"After deletion, we'll take the required land from the Revenue Department and present it to the Supreme Court. That should settle the matter," Khandre said.

BJP's V Sunil Kumar said the joint survey must be completed soon and MLAs should be consulted before finalising the extent of the deemed forests.

To this, Khandre said: "The report (on revising deemed forests) will be placed in the Karnataka Development Programme (KDP) meetings."

Senior BJP MLA Araga Jnanendra said the deemed forest matter is a burning issue in the entire Malnad region.

HC quashes govt order to shut Jan Aushadhi Kendras

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka High Court has set aside the state government order that sought to shut Jan Aushadhi Kendras in state-run hospitals. Justice M Nagaprasanna passed the order in a batch of petitions filed by Janaushadhi Kendra owners, represented by a legal team led by Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya.

The court indicated that a detailed order will be available next week.

In July, the court stayed the government's decision to shut down Jan Aushadhi Kendras. The Jan Aushadhi Kendras owners had challenged the state government order contending that it was passed without prior consultation or notice.

The petitioners claimed to have made substantial investments in infrastructure, medicine stocks, equipment, staff payments and regulatory compliance. The petitioners stated that their constitutional rights under Article 19(1)(g) and Article 21 are violated.

The state government's decision to close certain kendras as a policy decision to restrict doctors from directing patients to external medicine facilities. The petitioners however stated that there is inconsistency as similar establishments such as 'Janata Bazaar' and 'Janasanjeevini Stores' are allowed to continue operations.

India world's No.1 community with GitHub: Nadella in B'luru

Nadella, From Page 1

The tech giant on Tuesday announced over Rs 1.55 lakh crore ($17.5 billion) investment in India over four years (CY 2026 to 2029) to advance the country's cloud, AI infrastructure, skilling and ongoing operations.

"We are really excited about investing in India to make sure that we are able to bring the best infrastructure here. I had a chance to meet the Prime Minister a couple of days ago, and he talked through all of what we are trying to get done in India, and he was very encouraging of this investment, in particular, to drive this society, economy and the growth. This is the largest investment that we have made in Asia," he said.

Nadella also stressed on cyber resilience. "One important consideration that needs to be thought of in sovereignty is cyber resilience. At the end of the day, cyber security is an intelligence game. You can be sovereign and not have global intelligence. That sort of essentially means you will be vulnerable. Thinking about that in the risk equation becomes very important, because if you are not really seeing what the threat actors all around the world are doing to protect yourself, you will miss the signal. We see a lot of the threat actions across the globe. We take all those trillions of daily signals, turn that into everyday defence, whether it's on Azure or on Windows," he added.

The company is building out Azure as the world's computer, and it has over 70 data centre regions all over the world.

"In India, the footprint continues to grow. We now have central India, West India, South India, and we have a partnership with Jio as well," he added.

Congress MPs from state call on union agri minister, seek help for farmers

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress MPs from the state on Thursday called on Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and urged him to come to the rescue of sugarcane, maize and tur dal farmers in the state.

G Kumar Naik (Raichur), E Tukaram (Ballari), Shreyas Patel (Hassan), Prabha Mallikarjun (Davangere), Sagar Khandre (Bidar) and Sunil Bose (Chamarajanagar) met the agriculture minister here and submitted a memorandum to him.

FRP for sugarcane

"Fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane has not been revised since 2019, but cost of sugar production has risen every single year, widening the gap and pushing mills and farmers into distress, the memorandum said.

Market prices of maize have collapsed to nearly half of MSP. Farmers have no viable or remunerative avenues to sell their harvest, triggering severe income losses.

Even market prices of tur dal have fallen sharply far below MSP, causing huge distress to cultivators across north Karnataka, the plea said.

"The minister gave us a patient hearing and assured that the union government will examine the issues and extend all possible support at the earliest," Naik said in a statement.

'Non-submission of certificates delayed funds under JJM'

State has admitted to discrepancies in money utilisation: Min

KARNATAKA in PARLIAMENT

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil on Thursday informed the Lok Sabha that the release of funds to Karnataka under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) had been delayed due to non-submission of utilisation certificates by the state government.

Replying to Congress' E Tukaram (Bellary) during Question Hour, the minister said the ministry had repeatedly asked Karnataka to submit utilisation certificates for funds released by the Centre and verification certificates for implementation of JJM.

However, the state had not complied with the directions till date, he said.

The matter had also been brought to the notice of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

Jal Shakti Ministry officials had raised the issue with state officials and the ministry's team would hold further talks with Karnataka officials next week, Patil said.

"The state has admitted that discrepancies have occurred in utilisation of funds in some projects. Until we receive utilisation and verification certificates, the release of next instalment of funds is not possible," he said.

The minister said once the state submitted utilisation and field verification certificates, the entire balance amount would be released immediately.

Tukaram said the ministry was yet to release Rs 13,000 crore to Karnataka under the scheme.

21 Assam workers feared dead in Arunachal accident

Accident, From Page 1

The workers are from Gelapukhuri tea estate in eastern Assam's Tinsukia district.

On Thursday, the Spear Corps mobilised multiple search and rescue columns, medical teams, local police, NDRF personnel and the officials of Hayuliang.

"At 11.55 am, after four hours of intensive search and rope descent, the truck was spotted around 200 metres below the road near an inaccessible spot which was not visible from helicopters or the road due to dense tree cover and thick foliage. Eighteen bodies have been sighted and are being retrieved using belay ropes. The District Medical Officer is moving to facilitate evacuation of casualties and mortal remains," said the Army statement.

Officials from Tinsukia also left for the accident site.

SC tells spl court to decide trial against ex-MP Prajwal only on basis of evidence

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the special court to decide the pending trial against former JD-S MP Prajwal Revanna in the sexual assault case only on the basis of evidence presented before it.

The court, however, declined to consider his plea to transfer the pending trial from the Special Court (MP/MLA) to any other sessions court in Bengaluru on the ground of reasonable apprehension of bias.

Senior advocates Sidharth Luthra, and Siddharth Dave and advocate Balaji Srinivasan on behalf of Revanna, raised the grounds of apprehension of bias against the trial judge in view of certain observations.

On this, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, presiding over a bench with Justice Joymalya Bagchi said, "There are hypothetical situations in court. We make observations. But I am not someone who will take the browbeating of judges or courts lightly... As soon as the judge makes an observation there are allegations made against him."

The bench, however, said judges and courts also make mistakes but they are being rectified. "Sometimes, errors happen as we deal with such a large volume of cases and evidence," the CJI said.

In a relief to Revanna, the

court clarified that the presiding officer would not be swayed by the fact that he found the petitioner guilty in an earlier case.

"Obviously, he shall evaluate the evidence in the pending trials and will confine his conclusions on the basis of the evidence led in the pending trials only," the bench said, after hearing

The counsel for the petitioner sought transfer of the trial in view of certain observations made by the presiding officer in his judgment on August 01, 2025, convicting the petitioner under Section 376(2)(k), 376(2)(n), 354-A, 354-B, 354-C, 506 and 201 of the IPC and Section 66(E) of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

"It seems to us that these observations are contextual with reference to the record of the particular trial and keeping the observations made by the high court in a previous judgment. Be that as it may, these observations by the presiding officer cannot be the foundation of forming a definite opinion of bias or prejudging the issues," the bench said.

The court made it further clear that no inference would be drawn against the petitioner on the basis of the previous conviction or the evidence led in the trial which led to his conviction, more so, when the appeal by the petitioner was said to be pending before the high court.

The petitioner has been facing trial in two other cases of sexual assault pending before the special court. Those cases were lodged after hundreds of videos were circulated during the last Lok Sabha polls. The petitioner claimed those videos were morphed.

Over 30 Cong lawmakers attend DKS' dinner

BELAGAVI, DHNS: In a late-night development, more than 30 Congress lawmakers got together for a dinner party hosted by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on the outskirts of the city here.

The attendees included ministers K H Muniyappa, Dr M C Sudhakar, Mankal Vaidya, MLAs Ganesh Hukkeri, Darshan Dhruvanarayana, Ramesh Bandisiddegowda, H C Balakrishna, N A Haris, Ashok Kumar Rai, K Y Nanjegowda and C S Appaji Nadagouda, sources said.

Expelled BJP MLAs ST Somashekhar and Shivaram Hebbar also attended the dinner party, sources added.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast Dec 12: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	28.4	12.4	00
Bidar	27.6	09	00
Vijayapura	29	10	00
Dharwad	28	9.6	00
Haveri	30.2	12	00
Kalaburagi	32.2	13.2	00
Raichur	30	10	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	35.1	21	00
Karwar	35.8	19.8	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	33.9	23.3	00

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	13.2	00
Bengaluru	28.8	15.6	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	29	14.4	00
Davangere	29.5	11	00
Hassan	NA	11.2	00
Mysuru	29	15	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	28.2	10.6	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	25.2	8.6	00
Kolkata	26.5	15.3	00
Mumbai	34.1	15.6	00
Chennai	29.6	23.1	00
Pune	29.2	7.9	00
Hyderabad	29.5	12.2	00
Th'puram	34.4	23.9	00

Govt to install statue of Ambigara Chowdayya

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Backward Classes Welfare, Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi assured the Legislative Council on Thursday that the government would install a statue of Nijasharana Ambigara Chowdayya at the earliest, after identifying a suitable place in Bengaluru or Belagavi.

"I will also discuss with the CM on the detailed project report, and we need some time to install the statue", he said. MLC Tippannappa Kamakanoor moved a calling attention motion demanding immediate steps to install the statue on the premises of Vidhana Soudha or Suvarna Vidhana Soudha (Belagavi). The ruling and opposition MLCs displayed Ambigara Chowdayya's portrait in support of the demand.

Greens decry govt push to divert two Western Ghats rivers

BENGALURU, DHNS

Conservationists from the Western Ghats will descend on Bengaluru on Saturday to protest against the latest attempt by the Centre and the state government to divert two west-flowing rivers—Bedti and Aghanashini — in Uttara Kannada district.

The Bedti-Aghanashini Valley Conservation Committee has united a diverse group of stakeholders, from religious institutions to scientists, legal experts, retired forest officers, and environmental activists, to oppose the two diversion projects.

The event will be led by the committee's honorary president Gangadharendra Saraswati Mahaswami of Swarnavalli Mutt.

Addressing a curtain-raiser event, the committee's president and former chairman of the Karnataka Biodiversity Board Anant Hegde Ashisar warned that both projects risk becoming destructive "white elephants" akin to the Yettinahole project.

The Aghanashini-Vedavathi Project, estimated at over Rs 23,000 crore, aims to transfer water from river basin to Chitradurga's Vanivilas Sagar dam. A pre-feasibility report for this project was drafted in Oct, with NWDA coordinating with other agencies on detailed project report.

One-day digital security roundtable on Dec 12

BENGALURU, DHNS: Synergia Foundation is hosting a first-of-its-kind 'Digital Security and National Sovereignty Roundtable' on December 12 as a part of its technology initiative.

The top practitioners of cyber security in the military, intelligence, research organisations, diplomats, industry, start-ups, venture capitalists, and policy makers will congregate on a single platform to act as deliberate stewards of the emerging world order, and develop proactive strategies to deter present and future digital threats. The roundtable will provide a focused platform for high-level policy dialogue on how best to secure the digital space. It will explore approaches to strengthening the digital domain through integrated governance, resilient infrastructure, and enhanced global cooperation.

Some of the speakers in the roundtable include M Nagaraju, IAS, Secretary, Department of Financial Services; Pankaj Aggarwal, Secretary of Power; Dr Satish Reddy, former Chairman of DRDO; Lt Gen Rajesh Pant, former National Cyber Security Coordination; Gal Messinger, Head of Global Security, and others.

KARNATAKA GRAMEENA BANK
(Scheduled Bank Owned by Government)
Head Office, Gandhi Nagar, Ballari. Phone: 08392-236428, 236429

Quotations are invited in the prescribed format in a sealed envelope for **Annual Maintenance Contract of Burglar Alarm systems** in branches of our Bank for the period of one year. For further details please visit our Bank's website https://karnatakagb.bank.in. Interested **empanelled/existing vendors** may go through the tender and submit their response in time. Amendments if any will be hosted in the Bank's website only. Quotations duly filled in complete with proper seal & signature should be submitted to below address on or before **01.01.2026** up to **5.00 PM.**

To download the application please visit our website https://karnatakagb.bank.in

The General Manager
Karnataka Grameena Bank, Head Office
No. 32, Sanganakal Road, Gandhinagar Ballari-583 103.
Contact No. 08392-236428, 236429

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ
ನವನಗರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-580 025
0836-2956097, 2224274, 2222161

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಹು.ಧಾ.ನ.ಪ್ರಾ:ಮೂ.ನಿ/ಬಿ.ನಿ/ಇ-ಹರಾಜು/25-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ :11-12-2025

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ.

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಇ-ಹರಾಜ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ **ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಹು.ಧಾ.ನ.ಪ್ರಾ/ಇ.ಹ.ಪ್ರ/2025-26/3924 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17-11-2025**ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-11-2025** ಹಾಗೂ **20-11-2025** ರಂದು ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಿ, ಸದರಿ ಇ-ಹರಾಜಿನ ಲೈವ್ ಬಿಡ್ಡಿಂಗ್ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09-12-2025** ರಂದು **ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11-00 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11-12-2025** ರ **ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4-00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶದಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11-12-2025 ರಂದು** ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರಿಗೆ ಬಿಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ತೊಂದರೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಾರಣ ಸದರಿ ಲೈವ್ ಬಿಡ್ಡಿಂಗ್‌ನ್ನು ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಮುಂದೂಡಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮುಂದಿನ ಲೈವ್ ಬಿಡ್ಡಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಶೀಘ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಕಾರಣ ಇ-ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿದ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರು ಸಹಕರಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿ ಕೋರುತ್ತೇವೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ಸಹಿ/- ಆಯುಕ್ತರು
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/974/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ/2025-26

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka
4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560041
registrar@rguhs.ac.in Tel : +91-80-29601928

No. RGUHSB/RRAC/PROC(SI)/2/2024 (69029) Date: 11/12/2025

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)

The Registrar Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites tender for Supply of Stationery and Printing Items to RGUHS. More details on the Service are provided in the attached Terms of Reference.

Tender No. RGUHSK/2025-26/IND0018/CALL-2

1	Tender document available for download	11/12/2025, 12:58 Hrs.
2	Pre-Bid Meeting	17/12/2025,11:30 Hrs.
3	Last date Receipt of Tender	26/12/2025, 17:30 Hrs.
4	Sample Submission Date	29/12/2025, 11.00 Hrs.
5	Opening of Technical Bid	30/12/2025, 11:30 Hrs.
6	Place of Opening of Tender	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru

More details can be fetched from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/4384/AKAR/2025-26 **Sd/- Registrar**

THE FEDERAL BANK LIMITED
Regd. Office: Aluva, Kerala.

ZONAL OFFICE: 2nd Floor, Halcyon Complex, No.9, St Marks Road, Bangalore-560 001.
e-mail:bgrr-cpc@federalbank.co.in Ph:080-22074610/24/25

BGRR/Pvt Sale/Q3/2025-26 **NOTICE FOR PRIVATE SALE OF GOLD** 11/12/2025

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold Ornaments pledged in the following Gold Loan accounts, with the under mentioned Branches of the Bank, which are overdue for redemption and which have not been regularized so far in spite of repeated notices, will be put for Private sale, in the respective branches on any date after 17-12-2025 as shown below:

Br. Ainapur: Karchi Building, Opposite Pattan Panchayath,Taluk Athani, Belgaum, Karnataka, 591 303,Ph No. 08339-254084 :-14976400024837.
Br. Bangalore/R T Nagar: No.20, 1st Main Road, 108 'B' Bus Station, Ganga Nagar, R T Nagar P O, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560 032 :- 14726100220130,14726800072856,14726900003108.
Br. Ugarkhurd: Ghodagire Building, Opposite Post Office, Ugar Khurd, Athani Taluk, Belgaum, Karnataka-591316, Ph. No. 8339 272325 :- 14996400041821.
Br. Gonikopal: Sudharma Building,Near Masjid, Ponnampet Road Jn. Main Road, Gonikoppal, Kodagu- 571 213:- 19616100051871.

Bangalore 11-12-2025 **Senior Vice President & Zonal Head**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	North West-1	BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/4143/ 2025-26 Dated: 11.12.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	₹ 12,08,298/- / ₹ 15,200/-	27.12.2025 upto 5:00 pm	28.12.2025 after 5:15 pm
2.		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/4143/ 2025-26 Dated: 11.12.2025	₹ 11,35,147/- / ₹ 28,400/-		
3.		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/4143/ 2025-26 Dated: 11.12.2025	₹ 11,35,147/- / ₹ 28,400/-		
4.		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/4143/ 2025-26 Dated: 11.12.2025	₹ 18,86,112/- / ₹ 47,200/-		
5.		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/4143/ 2025-26 Dated: 11.12.2025 (Reserved for ST Category)	₹ 55,00,845/- / ₹ 55,100/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West-1)

Office of the Chief Engineer (K-O&M), 8th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

6.	Kaveri (O&M)1	BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-1TE/AE-1 2241/2025-26 Dated: 06.12.2025 (Call-3)	₹ 20,54,797/- / ₹ 50,000/-	22.12.2025 upto 4:00 pm	23.12.2025 at 4:00 pm
7.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-1/AE 2025/04/2312/2025-26 Dated: 10.12.2025 (Call-2)	₹ 10,07,780.4 / ₹ 25,200/-	19.12.2025 upto 4:00 pm	20.12.2025 after 4:01 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Kaveri-O&M)-1

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

8.	WWM (V.V-1)	BWSSB/EE(WWM-V.V)-1/ PB/1147/2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	₹ 42.16 Lakhs / ₹ 42,200/-	22.12.2025 upto 5:00 pm	23.12.2025 at 5:30 pm
9.		BWSSB/EE(WWM-V.V)-1/ PB/1148/2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025	₹ 73.03 Lakhs / ₹ 1,46,100/-		
10.		BWSSB/EE(WWM-V.V)-1/ PB/1149/2025-26 Dated: 09.12.2025	₹ 64.95 Lakhs / ₹ 1,30,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-V.Valey-1)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/4401/CCL/2025-26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following Works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Sl. No.	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	(South-East-2)	BWSSB/EE(SE-2)/TO/PB/ 3690/2025-26 Dated: 08-12-2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	1	Rs. 76,01,589/- / Rs. 76,020/-	30-12-2025 Upto 4.00 PM	01-01-2026 After 4.30 PM
		BWSSB/EE(SE-2)/TO/PB/ 3690/2025-26 Dated: 08-12-2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	2	Rs. 99,72,785/- / Rs. 99,730/-		
		BWSSB/EE(SE-2)/TO/PB/ 3690/2025-26 Dated: 08-12-2025 (Reserved for CAT-I Category)	3	Rs. 71,98,580/- / Rs. 71,990/-		
		BWSSB/EE(SE-2)/TO/PB/ 3690/2025-26 Dated: 08-12-2025 (Reserved for CAT-II(A) Category)	4	Rs. 91,16,547/- / Rs. 91,166/-		
		BWSSB/EE(SE-2)/TO/PB/ 3690/2025-26 Dated: 08-12-2025 (Reserved for ST Category)	5	Rs. 75,21,435/- / Rs. 75,300/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-East-2)

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

2	(UFW-2)	BWSSB/EE(UFW)-2/PB/ 732/2025-26 Dated: 09-12-2025	1	Rs. 72,12,160/- / Rs. 1,46,000/-	18-12-2025 Upto 4.00 PM	19-12-2025 After 4.05 PM
		BWSSB/EE(UFW)-2/PB/ 730/2025-26 Dated: 09-12-2025	2	Rs. 20,78,689/- / Rs. 41,600/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (UFW-2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri-O&M), 8th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

3	(Kaveri - O & M)-4	BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-4/ PB/252/2025-26 Dated: 11-12-2025 (Reserved for ST Category)	1	Rs. 16.35 Lakhs / Rs. 20,500/-	26-12-2025 Upto 4.00 PM	29-12-2025 at 11.00 AM
		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-4/ PB/252/2025-26 Dated: 11-12-2025	2	Rs. 14.68 Lakhs / Rs. 36,700/-		
		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-4/ PB/252/2025-26 Dated: 11-12-2025 (Reserved for CAT-I Category)	3	Rs. 39.50 Lakhs / Rs. 39,500/-		
		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-4/ PB/252/2025-26 Dated: 11-12-2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	4	Rs. 47.18 Lakhs / Rs. 47,200/-		
		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-4/ PB/252/2025-26 Dated: 11-12-2025	5	Rs. 47.56 Lakhs / Rs. 95,200/-		
		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-4/ PB/252/2025-26 Dated: 11-12-2025	6	Rs. 78.41 Lakhs / Rs. 1,57,000/-		
		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-4/ PB/252/2025-26 Dated: 11-12-2025	7	Rs. 97.58 Lakhs / Rs. 1,95,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Kaveri-O&M)-4

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement Portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/Adverto/4388/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ತುಂ.ಭ.ಎ.ಕಾ. ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ.3, ಸಿಂಧನೂರು-584128

No.KNNL/EE-3/TS-4/ERM/Qtn/2025-26/1662 Date: 01/12/2025.

QUOTATION NOTIFICATION

Sealed quotations are invited by the under signed on behalf of Managing Director KNNL Bangaluru from the reputed Firms/Contractors for Preparation of design, drawings and Estimates for critical & Non critical structures of TLBC. The item wise detailed technical specifications can be obtained from this office during office hours. The sealed quotations should reach the office of the undersigned either by post or in person on or before 19.12.2025 upto 4.00 Pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KNNL, TLBC Division, No.3
Sindhanur

DIP/RCR/597/KSMCA/599/2025-26

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, AFZALPUR - 585 301
E-mail : apmcafzalpur@gmail.com , Office Ph : 08470-283050

No.AMD/APMC/AFZ/DEV/406 / 2025-26 Date: 08-12-2025

-: BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION:-

Tender is invited through e-procurement website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** as per conditions of Standard Tender Documents KW-3 (with latest amendments) from eligible Contractors registered in Kamataka Public Work Department for development work under Annual Action Plan for the year of 2025-26 of Agricultural Produce Market Committee. Afzalpur Details are as below.

1) Pre bid/Clarification meeting: **20-12-2025 11:00 AM,** 2) Last date for the Tender applications receive : **29-12-2025 upto 04:00 PM,** 3) Date of opening of Technical bid : **31-12-2025 at 11.00 AM,** 4) Date of opening of Financial bid : **02-01-2026 at 11.00 AM,** 5) Place of opening of E-Tender bid: Office of the Secretary, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Afzalpur.

Name of work: **Construction of Covered action platform in between plot 14A and 13 in main market yard of APMC Afzalpur 2025-26 Action Plan,** 2) Amount put to Tender (in Rupees) : **94,01,652/- Exclusive of GST**, 3) EMD Amount (in Rupees): 1,88,000/-, 4) Tender fee: As per E-portal, 5) Time limit (Including monsoon period): 165 days Excluding Monsoon.

Any other information required can be obtained from the office of the Secretary, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Afzapur. during working days and hours or through website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Secretary,
A.P.M.C, Afzalpur

Sd/- Aministrator
A.P.M.C, Afzalpur

DIPR/Kalaburagi/840/KSMC&A/2025-26

ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಚಿತ್ತಾಪೂರ ರೋಡ್, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ – 585202.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ: 08473-253736 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: dcydr@ksp.gov.in

ಸಂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹ/22(ಭಾಗ-3)/ಸಿಟಿಆರ್‌ಎಸ್/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.12.2025.

ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆವಿರುವ VARIABLE MESSAGING SIGNAGE BOARD ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಳವಡಿಸಲು ಅಧೀಕೃತ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ (ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ) ಯವರಿಂದ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆಯ (KTPP Act) ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ದತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿವರಗಳು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಜಾಲತಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

1) ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: Tender No. KSP/2025-26/IND0407/CALL-2 2) ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.12.2025. 3) ಟೆಂಡರಗೆ ಸಂಬಧಿಸಿದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.12.2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5:30pm ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 4) ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು, ಟೆಂಡರಅನ್ನು ಇ- **Procurment portal** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.12.2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:30pm ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 5) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.12.2025 TIME: 05:00 pm 6) ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.12.2025 TIME:11:00 am 7) ಟೆಂಡರನ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.: 62,25,000/- 8) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನೊಂದಿಗೆಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.: 1,24,000/- 9) ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ Superintendent of Police, Yadgir. Ph: 08473-253736

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/421/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2025-26 ಸಹಿ/- ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023 Telephone No.080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com & cekhsdrp-hfws@karnataka.gov.in**

No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-2&3/AE-1TND/15th Finance/2025-26/3145 Date:11.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Short-Term Tender is invited from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in Two cover Tender document system in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform (KPP Portal) for the following Package works taken under 15th Finance.

Sl. No.	Description of work	Approximate Estimate cost (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs.in Lakhs)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandir at (1) Mantapa, (2) Nosenuru Anekal Taluk at Bengaluru Urban District (Call-4).	109.00	2.00	5 Months
2	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandiras at (1) Chikkandavadi, Holalkere Tq, (2) Belagur-A, Hosadurga Tq, (3) Dodderi, Challakere Tq, (4) Dummi, Holalkere Tq, (5) Gattihosahalli, Holalkere Tq, (6) Ramajogihalli-B, Challakere Tq, (7) Hosadurga Rural, Hosadurga Tq, (8) Hucchavvanahalli, Hiriyur Tq and (9) Karehalli, Hosadurga Tq in Chitradurga District (EWHFWD/2025-26/BD/ WORK_INDENT1102-Call-6).	488.60	7.50	5 Months

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders : **26.12.2025 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **29.12.2025 at 11.01 hrs.** The tender details can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivaji Nagar Division, Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bangalore

Tender Notification NO. EE/SJN/E-PROC/07/2025-26 Date: 11.12.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two Cover System)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer (Shivaji Nagar Division), BCCC, Bangalore invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/ KPWD/Railways /MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
	GENERAL CATEGORY
1.	Repair And Maintenance Of BBMP Buildings In Shivaji Nagar Constituency In East Zone. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 28.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 70000.00**
2.	Repair And Maintenance Of B.B.M.P.Nursery/ Primary School 14th Main Road Sampangiram Nagar In East Zone. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 37500.00**
3.	Repair And Maintenance Of B.B.M.P.Nursery/ Primary School Mayappa Garden Shivajinagar In East Zone. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 37500.00**
4.	Repair And Maintenance Of B.B.M.P.Nursery/ Primary School Cock Burn Road Shivajinagar Near Police Station Broadway Road In East Zone. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 37500.00**
5.	Repair And Maintenance Of B.B.M.P.Nursery/ Primary School Kodandarama Nagar Narayana Pillai Street In East Zone. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 37500.00**
6.	Repair And Maintenance Of B.B.M.P.Nursery/ Primary School Thimmaiah Road And Narayana Pillai Street In East Zone. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 37500.00**
7.	Repair And Maintenance Of BBMP Hospitals, Maternity home, Dispensary & Doctors Qtrs / Clinical Laborites In East Zone. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 75.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 150000.00**
8.	Repair And Maintenance Of Dhobi Ghats & other Fixed Assets in East Zone. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 51.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.102000.00**
9.	Providing Rain Water harvesting in BBMP Buildings and Parks in Shanthinagar & Shivajinagar Constituency In East Zone. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 13.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.32500.00**
	CAT-IIA CATEGORY
10.	Repair And Maintenance Of B.B.M.P.Nursery/ Primary School Thimmaiah Road Near Muthyalamma Road In East Zone. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.18750.00**
11.	Repair And Maintenance Of B.B.M.P.Nursery/ Primary School Near RBAMAINS School Street John Road In East Zone. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.18750.00**
12.	Repair And Maintenance Of PU Collasge Taskar Town In Shivajinagar Constituency. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 10.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.12500.00**
13.	Repair And Maintenance Of Primary health centers In Shivajinagara Constituency In East Zone. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 8.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.10000.00**
	S.C. CATEGORY
14.	Repair And Maintenance Of B.B.M.P.Nursery/ Primary School 1st Main Road Vasanth nagara In East Zone. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.18750.00**
15.	Repair And Maintenance Of Repair B.B.M.P.Nursery/ Primary School Near Broadway Police Station, BBMP Hospital Road, Slaughter House Road In Ward No 92 In East Zone. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.18750.00**
16.	Repair And Maintenance Of B.B.M.P.Nursery/ Primary School Sathyanarayan Temple Halasuru In East Zone Street. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.18750.00**
	S.T. CATEGORY
17.	Maintenance & Repair of Crematoriums/Burial Ground In Shivajinagara Constituency In East Zone. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 10.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.12500.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Pre bid meeting will be held on **12.12.2025 at 15.00** in the office of the Chief Engineer Zone-2, Bengaluru City Central Palike, Annexure-3, 4th Floor, GBA office compound, N R Square, Bengaluru **(2)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **29.12.2025 up to 16.00. (3)** Date of Technical bid opening of Tenders is on **31.12.2025 by 11.30 (4)** Date of Financial bid Opening of Tenders is on after Technical bid approved.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shivaji Nagar Division, BCCC

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

A missed chance to fix the electoral process

The two-day debate on electoral reforms in the Lok Sabha produced more heat than light, and fell to the level of mutual recriminations and slander that parties and leaders resort to during election time. India needs electoral reforms, given the widely discussed issues such as the influence of money in elections and the increasing reliance on various malpractices. Public trust in the Election Commission of India (ECI) — the institution tasked with the 'superintendence, direction and control' of elections — is at its lowest. But the problem goes beyond the conduct of elections. The standards of political parties and candidates have fallen, and their conduct has often contributed to weakening and vitiating the electoral process. Elections are seen merely as a means to gain power, rather than a fundamental process of democracy. What is not realised is that the vitiation of the election process results in the vitiation of democracy itself, leading to the delegitimisation of parties and politicians.

Rahul Gandhi, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, reiterated his allegations about the failures and decline of the ECI, its subordination to the government, and the 'vote *chori*' disclosures in which he has invested significant political capital. The controversial Special Intensive Revision (SIR) also came under scrutiny, along with related issues such as irregularities in the voters' lists, deletion of names, and the politics behind the exercise. There were demands for machine-readable electoral rolls, retention of CCTV footage — currently deleted after 45 days — and removal of the ECI's legal immunity. Gandhi accused the ECI of colluding with the government, and warned that "we will change the law retrospectively, and we will come looking for you." Most of the issues raised by him and other Opposition members reflected the positions they have taken in recent months regarding elections and the ECI.

Parties trade accusations while real reform remains ignored

The government dismissed the Opposition's concerns as neither genuine nor legitimate, and defended the SIR as an exercise undertaken by the ECI to cleanse the election process. Home Minister Amit Shah strongly articulated the government's and the ruling BJP's established positions. He returned the 'vote *chori*' charges against the Congress in the same coin, and asserted that the Opposition was complaining about the elections and the ECI because it was losing the elections. He strongly defended the revision of the voters list as an exercise to keep "infiltrators" out, even though the Bihar SIR has not shown any major presence of foreigners on the rolls. With political charges and counter-charges dominating the debate, it was a missed opportunity to reflect calmly and effectively on the election process, and find remedies for its ills.

High-performing state, deepening fiscal stress

Karnataka, which was once celebrated for its fiscal discipline, may be on the brink of a financial crisis, as it finds itself constrained on every front. The warning signs are no longer subtle; they are structural: revenue shortfalls, shrinking devolution, rising borrowings, and mounting welfare commitments. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has stated that the rationalisation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) alone has dealt a revenue blow of Rs 18,500 crore this year. This comes on top of a revenue deficit of Rs 19,000 crore estimated in the Budget, meaning that even if all targets are met, the state could end the year staring at a shortfall of at least Rs 37,500 crore.

The pressure is intensified by the five flagship guarantee schemes that collectively cost Rs 51,034 crore. Against a total budget size of roughly Rs 4 lakh-crore, this is a significant burden. The state is now perilously close to breaching the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act (KFRA) thresholds. The current fiscal deficit is projected at 2.95% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), just a shade under the 3% ceiling. Total liabilities stand at 24.91%, again brushing against the 25% limit. Revenue deficit is 0.63% of GSDP, violating the KFRA mandate of maintaining a revenue surplus. Any additional borrowing could push Karnataka into a statutory default — an unthinkable situation for a state long seen as a model of financial responsibility.

Revenue shocks and welfare burdens push Karnataka toward fiscal limits

A significant share of Karnataka's distress comes from what it claims to be stepmotherly treatment from the Centre. The State argues that it suffered a loss of Rs 80,000 crore under the Fifteenth Finance Commission. For every rupee it contributes in direct taxes, the state gets back only 15 paise in return. There is no compensation for GST losses, while cess and surcharge collected by the Centre are kept outside the divisible pool. It is a paradox that one of India's top performers in GDP, per capita income, investment, innovation, and most other economic indicators finds itself in financial distress. The solutions require both federal reforms and internal tightening. The Centre must ensure fairer devolution, include cess in the divisible pool, and release pending grants such as for Upper Bhadra and Bengaluru infrastructure. The State, in turn, must boost non-tax revenue, rationalise expenditure, and trim non-essential schemes, without compromising capital investment, which is crucial for long-term growth. In the end, Karnataka must confront an uncomfortable truth: growth alone will not shield it from fiscal fragility. Karnataka can remain a high-growth engine only if it balances populist schemes with financial prudence, and strengthens its revenue productivity, while securing a fairer share of the national tax pool.

MEITEI–KUKI DIVIDE

Time to put an end to insurgency in Manipur

The State must convince militant groups of the futility of prolonging their secessionist demand, which is unachievable

M P NATHANAEL

Four personnel of Assam Rifles (AR) were seriously wounded when militants targeted a patrol near Saibol village on India-Myanmar border in the wee hours on November 28. Though no militant outfit has claimed responsibility for the attack, the needle of suspicion points towards the outlawed People's Liberation Army (PLA), one of the oldest outfits in the state, banned in 1979.

Earlier on September 13, a truck carrying AR personnel was ambushed by PLA militants on NH2 in Nambol town of Bishnupur district, in which two, including a junior commissioned officer, were martyred, and five others injured. The vehicle was on its way to the AR post in Maibam in Bishnupur from Imphal.

The militants initially fired on the tyres forcing it to stop a few meters away, and thereafter targeted the personnel inflicting casualties. They drove away in another waiting vehicle. Fortunately, fearing that their retaliatory fire in darkness could result in heavy casualties among the civilian, the AR men exercised restraint. PLA militants were arrested from Imphal on September 24, and weapons used in the ambush recovered.

Among the reasons attributed to the attacks is the erroneous impression floating among the valley-based Meiteis that the AR is biased and favourably inclined towards the hill-based Kukis, though the AR has exercised neutrality in dealing with the warring groups. On quite a few occasions, AR personnel manning the buffer zones restrained Manipur police commandos, all Meiteis, from crossing over to the Kuki-dominated areas. Matters came to such a pass that 40 MLAs from the valley wrote to the prime minister on August 10, 2023, that the AR be withdrawn from the state. This was soon followed by 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs sending a missive to the prime minister that the AR be retained.

Attacks on the security forces in the state in recent years had declined. With insurgency-related incidents on the wane, coupled with incessant demand for the revocation of the much-dreaded Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), the Centre revoked the Act from April 1, 2022, from the jurisdiction of 15 police stations in six districts. Irom Sharmila was on hunger strike for nearly 16 years from November 4, 2000, demanding the revocation of the AFSPA due to the unbridled powers bestowed on the armed forces operating in the area, and its blatant and arbitrary misuse by the security forces. In its verdict on July 8, 2016, on a PIL filed by the Extra Judicial Execution Victims Families Association of Manipur seeking justice in 1,528 cases of fake encounter, the apex court opined that there was truth in the

allegations of fake encounters by Army and the police. It directed the security forces to desist from using "excessive and retaliatory force", and that all cases of excessive use of force be probed.

The number of insurgency-related incidents, which had in recent years recorded a decline with just 97 reported in 2020, surged from 112 in 2021 to 226 in 2024. The rise in figures for 2023 and 2024 is attributed to the ethnic clashes that rocked the state since May 3, 2023, during which the militant groups had a field day. The militant groups left their bases in Myanmar and infiltrated into the valley. Having looted weapons from police armouries, the militants, along with two other Meitei outfits Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Lipun, went about their murderous spree with the death toll soon crossing 200, and sporadic incidents thereafter taking the toll to over 265. About 60,000 people displaced from their homes continue to languish in camps set up by the state government. Many of the militants who surrendered in the past chose to join the radical Arambai Tenggol due to the unbridled power it wields in the valley and the alleged patronage of former Chief Minister N Biren Singh and its founder Leishamba Sanajaoba, a Rajya Sabha MP. This dreaded outfit calls the shots in the state, and claims to be protectors of the Meitei community.

The recent tripartite agreement between the Centre, the State, and the Kuki-Zo groups extending the Suspension of Operations (SoO) has been a sore point that has been agitating the Meiteis. Singh had opposed the extension of the SoO and hence it was not extended in February 2024. With the imposition of President's Rule in February this year, the Centre signed a tripartite agreement extending the SoO with certain modifications. While the Centre was ecstatic about the Kuki-Zo group having agreed to open NH2, the latter averred that vehicles were plying with Central Reserve Police Force escort. Yet, the Meiteis dread using the Kuki-dominated stretches passing through Kangpokpi.

The extension of the SoO with the Kuki-Zo group who are comfortably ensconced in their camps has caused flutters among the Valley Based Insurgent Groups (VBIG) comprising of seven Meiteis militant groups. In November 2023, cadre of a faction of United National Liberation Front led by Pambei surrendered before the government, but failed to deposit their weapons. They were in the forefront with Arambai Tenggol in the violence that had roiled the state from May 2023. Since the UNLF is the oldest militant outfit in the state having been raised in 1964, the other Meitei outfits are on a wait and watch mode. Given an opportunity with lucrative offers, they would in all probability jump on to the bandwagon of surrenderers and like their Kuki-Zo fellows prefer to stay in camps and live in peace.

While the Centre and the state are embroiled in arriving at a solution to the ethnic conflict, the State ought to send feelers to the VBIGs to surrender to the authorities with their weapons and convince them of the futility of prolonging their secessionist and sovereignty demand which is unachievable. A six-decades-long struggle by militant outfits has proved futile as they never can take on the might of the Indian security forces.

(The writer is a retired Inspector General of Police, CRPF)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

A stage that slipped away

Destiny intervened just as the curtain was about to rise

M S VAIDYANATHAN

I craved recognition even as a schoolboy; I still do as a senior citizen. My desire was not limited to any one field or discipline. It ranged from academics to sports—for that matter, any effort that offered the possibility of a 'stage' honour before a galaxy of distinguished guests for my performance. Towards that end, I left no stone unturned.

The inadvertent mention of 'stage' reminds me of the turning point in my life while in the seventh standard in a co-educational school in Varanasi. Preparations were in full swing for the Annual Day celebrations at the fag end of the academic year before the Christmas holidays. As part of the cultural event, the school management decided to stage a play, a short skit. It was titled *What's that you said!* The play centred around an unsuccessful sportsman.

The script was prepared, and the cast was finalised. And much to my surprise, I was summoned to the principal's room, where, along with my friends from other classes, a copy of the script was handed over to me. Sister Tara, who was co-coordinating the preparations, told me that I had to read the lines of Godfrey Gleason – one of the characters in the play. I read out my lines, with pauses for semicolons and commas and, of course, with corrections for pronunciation in places. Some staff members, including my class teacher, Father Joseph, were also present. The exercise over, we dispersed. This ritual continued over the next fortnight, during which time we were made comfortable by the teachers, who themselves enacted some scenes, asking us to observe their facial expressions and relaxed posture while delivering a dialogue. Despite my lack of experience in acting, I was gradually adapting to my role.

A couple of days before the scheduled Annual Day celebrations, all those who were associated with the programme were asked to assemble at the auditorium near the school for a rehearsal. I took my neighbour's bicycle and pedalled my way to the school and from there to the auditorium, feeling very uncomfortable but excited nevertheless, as my teachers were happy with our overall performance.

The next day, while returning from school in an overcrowded school bus, the door near the entrance suddenly opened while negotiating a sharp bend, and I, who was standing near the door, was thrown out. What happened thereafter I did not know. When I opened my eyes, I found myself in the hospital bed with bandages on my face and hands.

My teachers visited me each day at the hospital, and through them I later learnt that the play to be staged had been scrapped from the itinerary for the Annual Day celebrations, bringing to an end my probable break as an actor on stage.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unfair to blame Nehru for Vande Mataram decision

Apropos 'Unity sacrificed at the altar of politics' (Dec 11), it is a sad but sagacious commentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's handling of the patriotic national song, Vande Mataram. The prime minister's attempt to blame Jawaharlal Nehru for fragmenting the song is unfair, as the decision to omit certain stanzas was taken by the Congress Working Committee in 1937 on the recommendation of a committee headed by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. This committee included stalwarts like Subhas Chandra Bose and Sardar Patel. It is unjust to pull Nehru's leg over this issue, especially when it jeopardises the song's purpose of promoting unity.

M Basavaraj, Davangere

Why dwell in past?

Apropos 'Unity sacrificed at the altar of politics' (Dec 11), Vande Mataram is revered as the national song and is sung at the beginning of many events. The ruling dispensation's attempt to make it a divisive narrative is unfortunate. Why is the Vande Mataram issue important now for public discussion, especially when the nation already cherishes and celebrates the song?

Biyona Jose, Bengaluru

Focus on real issues

National songs and anthems are non-negotiable aspects of our country. Using them as a political tool undermines their essence. The recent debate in Parliament could have been used to discuss more pressing issues.

Rachana Raghunandan, Bengaluru

Ensure safety online

Australia's ban on social media for children under 16 should prompt India to rethink how we protect young users online. With increasing cases of cyberbullying, gaming fraud, and mental health issues, parents often feel helpless while tech platforms escape accountability. A full ban may not be suitable for India, but strict age verification, time limits, and digital awareness programmes can help reduce risks. Childhood should not be shaped by constant scrolling and online comparison. A safer digital environment is now a basic requirement, not an optional reform.

K R Gagan, Tumakuru

Shared responsibility

I refer to the IndiGo saga. Both the government and the airline are equally liable. While the airline should have adhered to government orders, the government should have ensured the smooth operation of the airline.

Prarthana N R, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Yes, I'm apologising (for IndiGo flight disruption). I'm also responsible as a minister to ensure that this sector is flying high...

Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Civil Aviation Minister

By the time most people say 'I'm sorry' it is already too late.

Ken Poirot

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

The struggle for affordable housing

The widening gap between what people can afford to pay and actual housing prices is making cities increasingly unaffordable

MANAV KHAIRE AND DISHA BHANOT

Urban regions worldwide are urgently seeking political commitment to address the lack of affordable housing. Zohran Mamdani, the New York City mayor-elect, campaigned on alleviating the cost-of-living crisis, including affordable housing, rent freezes, universal childcare, subsidised public education, free public transport, and subsidised grocery stores, positioning affordability as the core issue.

Many of Mamdani's views resonate deeply with the Indian context; his emphasis on grassroots democracy, equitable development, and people-first policies mirrors the aspirations of countless communities here.

In a similar context, an email sent in 2020 by Peter Thiel, co-founder of PayPal, has resurfaced in headlines, suggesting that student debt and unaffordable housing may push millennials towards greater support for socialism, potentially paving the way for the rise of political leaders like Mamdani.

Housing unaffordability is no longer a standalone issue; it has evolved into what social scientist Steffen Wetzstein refers to as a 'Global Urban Housing Affordability Crisis', an overall trend in which house prices and rents grow significantly faster than the median household incomes across urban centres worldwide. In other words, cities are becoming increasingly unaffordable due to the widening gap between what people can afford to pay and actual housing prices, indicating a lack of affordable housing options.

In an interview, the executive director of UN-Habitat (2020) stated that "around 80 per cent of cities worldwide do not have affordable housing options (either for rental or purchase) for half of their population."

India has the second-largest urban population (461 million) in the world, with five megacities — New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Chennai. With rapid urban population growth, the need for affordable housing has increased proportionately.

However, the supply of affordable housing stock has consistently fallen short, leading to a persistent supply-demand mismatch. This mismatch reflects an inconvenient paradox in the Indian context: a significant disparity exists between the housing being supplied (targeted largely at middle- and higher-income groups) and the housing needed (for low-income populations).

This ongoing mismatch is not merely an urban planning issue; it strikes at the heart of poverty itself. When affordable housing is scarce, low-income households are forced to spend a disproportionate share of their income on rent or settle for unsafe, overcrowded dwellings. Such housing insecurity undermines every other aspect of well-being: families struggle to save, invest in education, access stable employment, or pursue upward mobility.

In this sense, poverty and housing are inseparable challenges. Without addressing housing affordability, efforts to reduce urban poverty remain fundamentally incomplete. Secure, dignified shelter is not an outcome of development, it is a prerequisite for it. Thus, the battle against poverty cannot be won without confronting the parallel crisis of unaffordable housing, as improvements in income, health, or social support can still be undone when families are pushed back into insecurity due to unaffordable living conditions.

Housing: an individual problem?

Following the 1991 reforms, the Indian government adopted market-driven housing policies to bridge the supply-demand gap. Under this model, housing is predominantly financed and built by the private sector, while the government acts mainly as a market enabler, regulating the broader ecosystem. On the supply side, individual households are expected to have sufficient income and financial resources to purchase housing in the open market.

Once this individualised narrative takes hold, the responsibility for securing housing shifts entirely to individuals. Essentially, if one cannot afford housing, the blame lies with the individual, and the market or government remains beyond question. Mamdani's campaign directly challenged this framing, highlighting socio-political housing justice that confronts speculative forces and exposes the structural and systemic roots of unaffordability.

By presenting unaffordability as a collective, policy-driven problem, rather than an individual burden, the campaign resonated strongly with citizens. It challenged the popular narrative surrounding why a basic need such as housing has become so unaffordable. In doing so, it restored political accountability to an area where markets have been insufficient and positioned housing justice as a legitimate civic demand.

Mamdani's victory is more than just an electoral win, it signals a resurgence of people-powered politics. His campaign, fuelled by grassroots support rather than corporate dollars, is a powerful reminder that democratic values and socialist principles still endure. Mamdani's success underscores that the struggle for housing affordability, whether in New York or Mumbai, is a struggle for dignity, equity, and democratic agency.

(Manav is Assistant Professor of Political Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Palakkad. Disha is Associate Professor of Operations, Supply Chain Management and Quantitative Methods, S P Jain Institute of Management & Research (SPJIMR)

Unpacking the dispute around Gujarat's stray dog mandate

DATELINE Ahmedabad

SATISH JHA

Over 10,000 Talatis-cum-Mantris (village-level administrative officers) in Gujarat are reportedly on edge over a state government directive requiring them to catch stray dogs within their respective jurisdictions, sterilise them, and send them to shelter homes.

The government issued the order following the Supreme Court ruling directing states to take action to curb the stray dog menace. The government order has sparked controversy, with an organisation representing Talatis writing to the state government, calling the new responsibility both "insulting" and "impractical".

On November 7, the Supreme Court, while hearing a *suo motu* public interest litigation, directed all states to take measures to address the stray dog problem. In response to this directive, the Gujarat government's rural development department issued a notification on November 18. The notification mandated that "Talatis monitor and control the presence of stray dogs, preventing them from entering government offices, educational institutions, hospitals, and other public places."

The Talatis argue that the directive places an "unreasonable burden" on them, given their existing responsibilities and lack of resources to carry out such skilled tasks. The Gujarat Rajya Talati-Mantri Mahamandal, the representative body of the Talatis, has written to the government protesting the decision and demanding to revoke it.

"In this regard, we would like to submit that the Talati-cum-Mantri, along with the work related to Gram Panchayat administration, is already handling a wide range of responsibilities, including revenue-related work, disaster management, registration of births and deaths, marriage registration, implementation of various welfare schemes, collection of panchayat taxes, and also assisting BLOs in the ongoing Election Commission of India's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voters' list. They are already under immense workload and pressure," the Mahamandal said in the letter submitted to the government last week.

The notification states that at the district level, the p*ashu niyamak adhikari* (animal husbandry officer) and *pashu chikitsak* (veterinarian) at the taluka level have been appointed as nodal officers for this task. However, at the village level, there is no designated staff or department created by the government to handle such responsibilities. Instead, the work has been assigned to the Talatis.

"Despite the fact that Talatis are not trained for these specialised tasks, they have been assigned this responsibility, which does not seem appropriate," the Mahamandal has claimed.

The notification states that designated officials, including Talatis, must ensure that stray dogs do not enter any government or private educational institutes, hospitals, or other public places. Information about the nodal officers must be posted at the entrance of government premises.

"The jurisdictional authority of the local self-government institution will be responsible for immediately removing any stray dogs found within the institution's premises and, as per the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, ensuring proper sterilisation and vaccination, after which the animals will be sent to the designated shelter," states the notification.

"The government has not responded to our demand to take the notification back as of today. We met with several ministers, including Rushikesh Patel, earlier this week, but all we received were verbal assurances. Let me be very clear – Talatis are not going to follow these instructions," Pankaj Modi, the president of the Talati Mahamandal, told *DH*.

Modi said that there are just over 10,000 Talatis, also known as patvaris in many parts of India, working across 14,300 Gram Panchayats in the state. Modi added that Talatis are already burdened with a heavy workload, and such a notification only adds extra pressure, especially for tasks they are not trained to handle.

According to figures presented in the Lok Sabha in 2023, Gujarat, with nearly 1.69 lakh cases of dog bites, was among the top five states in the country. In the past few years, cases of dogs mauling children to death have hit headlines from various places in Surat and Rajkot. A police inspector recently died of rabies.

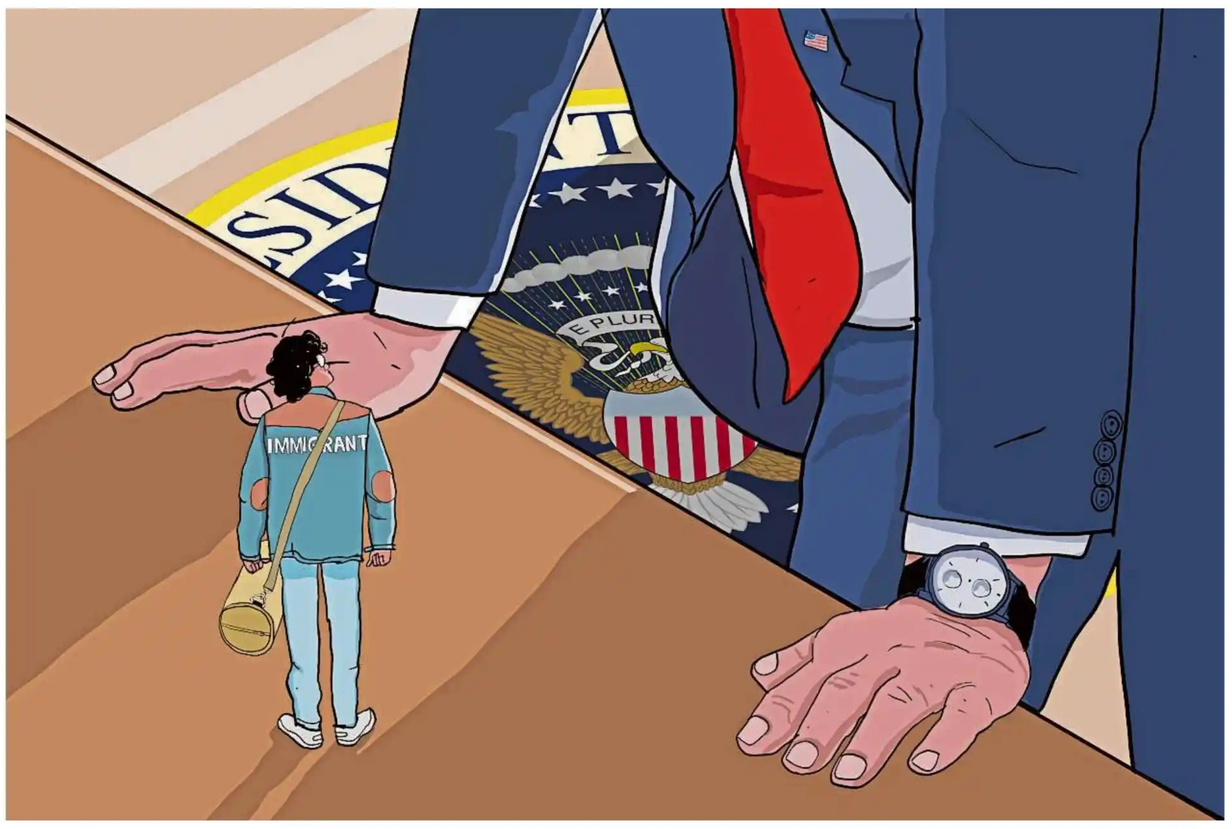
During the hearing in the apex court, the Union government, citing newspaper reports, stated that "approximately 37,15,713 dog bites occurred in India in 2024, and in several cases, human lives were lost due to trauma and rabies infection." The Gujarat government filed an affidavit in the court stating that a total of 13 Animal Birth Control Centres (shelters/pounds) were functional in the state, which were established by Urban Local Bodies "for carrying out the capture, sterilisation, deworming, vaccination, and post-operative care of stray dogs."

It said that the state undertook sustained sterilisation and immunisation drives across all major ULBs. "Between January 1, 2024, and October 10, 2025, a total of 96,787 stray dogs have been sterilised, and 1,26,746 stray dogs have been immunised under the supervision of qualified veterinarians and trained staff," the affidavit claimed.

The affidavit says that each of the 13 operational ABC centres is manned by 21 veterinary surgeons and 110 trained dog-catching personnel, and 26 specially designed vehicles fitted with safety cages have been deployed across ULBs.

DHNS

As three immigrants claim Nobel Prizes in science for the United States this year, experts warn that immigration crackdowns could undo American innovation



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

A scientific pipeline to the Nobel fuelled by immigrants

WILLIAM J. BROAD

He grew up in a family of Palestinian refugees in Jordan. His one-room home, filled with eight siblings, their parents and cows, lacked electricity and running water. Early on, a schoolbook's depiction of atomic building blocks caught his eye. When he was 15, his father, a butcher, sent him to study in the United States. Now a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, Omar Yaghi, 60, is being honoured Wednesday at a ceremony in Stockholm with a Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Yaghi's story is not unusual. Of the six American winners of science Nobels this year, three were born outside the United States. In this century, the emigre fraction of US Nobels in physics, chemistry and medicine now stands at 40%.

The nation's long history of scientific feats, exemplified by Nobels, helped build a number of trillion-dollar companies in Silicon Valley as well as the world's most dynamic economy and its wealth of social benefits, economists say.

Some experts warn that the policies of the Trump administration have put that bounty in jeopardy. By putting "America First," they say, an era of US prosperity could come to an end as the pipeline for legal immigrants, foreign students and visiting researchers dries up.

Yaghi voiced that concern, too, before flying to Stockholm. President Donald Trump's policies, he said in an interview, endanger the US ecosystem of scientific excellence. "I think it's regrettable," he said. "We've learned over and over in human civilisation that scholars can move across borders. This is how knowledge spread and how vast regions of the world lifted themselves out of poverty."

Trump's policies need to be seen "in that context," Yaghi added. "We have to know that people coming from different backgrounds improve the level for everybody involved. That's an amazing story. Great thinkers can improve not only the US but the world."

In a statement, Abigail Jackson, a White House spokesperson, said the administration would "continue to unapologetically advocate for American workers over foreign workers."

"American hands and minds built our great country and made America into the dominant superpower it is today," Jackson added. "The American people are capable of anything they put their minds to, and the Trump administration is committed to relentlessly creating opportunity for Americans to thrive."

In contrast, Lisa Gilman, director of George Mason University's Institute for Immigration Research, described the "America First" approach as a path to national decline. "These policies are literally blocking the talent pipeline," she said. "If this continues, we're going to lose our standing as the world leader in science and innovation."

One Trump policy, meant to spur the hiring of domestic workers, has placed a steep new fee on visas used to bring in foreign researchers. Another policy has intensified the vetting of foreign students, creating a maze of new obstacles. The most sweeping move is the administration's general crackdown on immigration, including bars to green cards and citizenship. The overall result is a deep chill, perhaps felt most strongly by those with skills they can take elsewhere.

For the better part of a century, the nation's traditional vigour and openness made it a magnet for immigrants who at some point in their careers—often decades after their arrival—won Nobels.

Katalin Kariko, born in Hungary in 1955, grew up in a small home that had no running water, no refrigerator and no television set. Curious about science, she studied hard and moved to the United States in her 20s. For decades, she never found a permanent job in academia but instead worked on its fringes. In 2005, Kariko and Drew Weissman made a discovery that, while long overlooked, turned out to be a potent counterpunch to deadly viruses. Their finding led to one of the most effective Covid-19 vaccines, which saved millions of lives. In 2023, they won a Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine.

The magnetic pull of the United States has attracted not just individuals but groups of researchers who repeatedly helped speed the pace of scientific discovery in emerging fields, and subsequently won Nobel Prizes.

Immigrants advanced the semiconductor age, fuelling the explosive growth of new industries and producing the dazzling array of gadgets that now define the tech world.

Four immigrants stand out: Leo Esaki was a 1973 laureate from Japan; Ivar Giaever, a 1973 laureate from Norway; Herbert Kroemer, a 2000 laureate from Germany; and Willard S Boyle, a 2009 laureate from Canada. All worked in the United States at the time they were awarded Nobel Prizes.

These thinkers cast light on quantum mechanics — the laws that rule the subatomic realm. They found that tiny particles known as electrons could jump from one material to another, that layers of dissimilar materials could improve the targeting of such jumps and that semiconductors could detect particles of light. This final stride led not only to digital cameras for consumers but to supersensitive detectors for spy satellites and space telescopes.

As basic ingredients in modern life, the chips enriched not only Silicon Valley but distant industries: The tiny circuits went into cars, jets, cellphones, toys, TV sets, video games, medical devices and a surprising range of other products. Globally, experts estimate the gains at trillions of dollars and millions of jobs.

Yaghi's bright idea was more abstract in nature but, like those of his fellow laureates, conjured visions among scientists and corporations of commercial spinoffs.

His feat was learning how to assemble molecular building blocks into structures whose mazes of internal surfaces cover vast areas—the largest of any known substance. His porous structures act like sponges that readily absorb, store and release gases and vapours. Yaghi and his team created metal-organic frameworks, or MOFs. Made of metal atoms, these can hold organic molecules associated with life.

His structures can, for instance, harvest water from desert air. In 2018, Yaghi's students tested a version of a water harvester that used an MOF in California's Mojave Desert, producing nearly three cups of pure, drinkable water each day. The device is now nearing commercialisation.

Sharing in the Nobel Prize in physics this year were John M Martinis and two US immigrants: Michel H Devoret, from France, and John Clarke, from England. Their experiments 40 years ago are seen as advancing the emerging fields of quantum cryptography, quantum computers and quantum sensors.

Officials in Trump's administration argue that science in the US can excel without immigrants. In an interview in May on *Newsmax*, a right-wing cable channel, Vice President J D Vance rejected the need to "import a foreign class of servants and professors." And he called the administration's crackdowns on foreign student visas "an opportunity for American citizens to really flourish." Two days later, Stephen Miller, architect of the Trump administration's immigration policy, argued in a social media post that a time of low US immigration in the middle of the 20th century coincided with "unquestioned global scientific dominance." In a June interview, he elaborated on his claim, describing the feat as rooted in "our own genius." Miller then softened his stance by adding that, "of course," the nation had to open its arms to people with "specialised knowledge."

Historians disagree with his characterisation of "our own genius." They note, for instance, that a wave of immigrants helped the nuclear age zoom ahead. At least five won Nobel Prizes while working at American institutions.

The New York Times

Streets as studios and the missing consent

NIKHIL ERINJINGAT

Public spaces—footpaths, restaurants, parks, buses, and trains—once places of practical obscurity and shared anonymity are now open studios for social media content creators chasing virality. Incentives for going viral on short-form video platforms such as Instagram and YouTube have attracted thousands of individuals to the streets to record strangers. A stranger's reaction, a passer-by's expression, or a person's quotidian conduct in public space is edited and uploaded on the internet within minutes. Consent is rarely sought, and strangers are often recorded without their knowledge. Stepping out onto a public street is accepting the possibility of becoming the subject of someone else's video and remaining on the Internet forever.

While it is easier to spot someone recording in public using a mobile phone or digital camera, wearable recording devices, especially camera-embedded spectacles, make it almost impossible to detect a person recording people in public spaces; a few are being aggressively marketed on social media in India and abroad. These technologies mark the shift from open recording to 'ambient recording', where individuals are filmed in public spaces secretly, continuously and pervasively by other individuals. What is recorded is not merely stored for safety or security purposes but is made into social media content for views, comments, sensationalism, and money.

Public spaces are becoming Orwellian. Not because the State is watching, but because social media is watching. The issue of secret non-consensual recording of private individuals in public spaces is not just a social concern but also constitutional. The Supreme Court in *K S Puttaswamy v. Union of India* (2017) affirmed that the right to privacy is a fundamental facet of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution. Privacy is grounded in dignity, autonomy and personal choice. Justice D Y Chandrachud writes in his opinion, "The extent to which an individual expects privacy in a public street may be different from that which she expects in the sanctity of the home. Yet if dignity is the underlying feature, the basis of recognising the right to privacy is not denuded in public spaces." While the decision of the Supreme Court is a robust precedent against violation of privacy by the State and its instrumentalities, the Indian privacy jurisprudence is underdeveloped to provide remedy against an individual content creator who records videos in public space without consent. Advancement in technology is making people on the streets into digital artefacts.

India's Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act 2023 and recently notified DPDP Rules are significant steps towards protecting personal data. However, their application to prevent non-consensual public recording of people in public spaces is limited. In principle, any video (data) in which a person is identifiable constitutes personal data (Section 2(s), DPDP Act). Further, recording, editing and uploading such a video amount to processing personal data under the Act, requiring consent to be taken by the person who is processing the video (personal data). Yet, the Act's structure and compliance architecture are inadequate to prevent non-consensual recording of strangers in public spaces. The consent and notice requirements under the Act presuppose structured data flows, purpose specification and grievance mechanisms. Even the illustrations given in the Act indicate this. These obligations cannot be practically operationalised by or be enforced on a teenager recording a passer-by on a metro platform or an influencer recording public reaction in a busy mall.

The Act excludes "personal or domestic use" from its scope. However, it is unclear whether content created with the intention of uploading it on the internet (monetised or not) falls within the meaning of "personal or domestic use". Hence, even though, technically, the Act should apply to individuals filming in public, the compliance requirements and structure might make it impractical. The result is a significant regulatory vacuum.

Addressing this challenge requires legal and ethical thinking about privacy in public space. Even though the expectation of privacy is limited in public spaces, streets, metros, buses, and malls cannot become a stage for content creators to shoot videos of strangers. The European Union, Japan, South Korea and the United Kingdom have started to regulate public filming through data privacy laws, criminal laws, and disclosure guidelines. India lacks a comparable framework for visual privacy in public spaces. Democracy grounded in the value of dignity, autonomy and self-determination must ensure protection of every individual's right to decide how they are seen online.

(The writer is an Assistant Professor at Alliance School of Law, Alliance University)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 1975

Expelled Indians: Uganda to pay compensation

New delhi, December 11
India and Uganda have concluded an agreement under which Uganda will pay cash compensation to Indian nationals whose properties and assets were attached after they were expelled from there in August 1972. Uganda had expelled 60,000 people of Asian origin in August 1972 after the "economic war" and about 7,000 Indians had returned. The Indian delegation had gone to Kampala following President Idi Amin's letter to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi stating his intention regarding compensation.

25 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 2000

H D Deve Gowda lambasts Vajpayee on Ayodhya

New Delhi, Dec 11
Former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda today called upon all non-NDA parties to shun their differences . "It is high time for secular forces to forget their differences and come together to expose the NDA government led by A B Vajpayee," the former prime minister told newsmen here today. Mr Gowda, currently in an effort to bring together non-NDA parties to fight the government's anti-farmer policies, charged the Prime Minister of deliberately raking up the Ayodhya to divert attention.

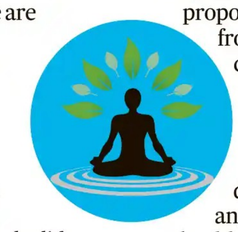
OASIS | CHANDER GUPTA

The misdirected anger

Anger manifests itself in scowling, screaming, and at its worst in shoving. The person who becomes the target of your anger is not solely responsible for stoking its intensity. Our minds are simmering cauldrons. The stresses of the daily rigmarole keep building up the heat. Sulking at things not in our hands - be it chaotic traffic, late working hours, imposing boss, parking woes, nagging spouse, and so on - becomes our habit.

Oblivious of the smouldering in our minds, we hardly make efforts to release the tension. Finally in the heat of the moment the anger boils over. The confronted person at that moment becomes the target of your anger accumulated over a period of time. There is overreaction, disproportionate to the provocation at hand. Subsequently you regret and even repent.

On another plane there are scenarios when you have to suppress your anger because the adversary is stronger and superior to you. The anger, emanating from perceived oppression, remains pent up as you feel helpless to raise your voice. However, the lid on the suppressed anguish blows off from slightest annoyance caused by someone weaker. Again, you heap your anger disproportionately on someone whose guilt is not commensurate to the venom you pour.



Most of the time that we lose our cool, our anger is misdirected and disproportionate. When anger stems from past prejudices, stressful circumstances, frustration, helplessness etc, we usually react disproportionately. The victim of our anger is left shocked and confused. Misdirected and disproportionate anger spoils relationships, health, image etc.

Anger *per se* might not be bad, but misdirected and disproportionate anger is definitely deleterious. The anger needs to be released but in right direction and in balanced dose. Manage your anger. Beware of anger going awry.

To resolve the phenomenon of misdirected and disproportionate anger, we have to understand and analyse past episodes of our bursting out in anger. Every time, we react disproportionately, we should calm down and ponder over our behaviour. We will realise that our reaction was either misdirected or disproportionate. To apologise to the person who became target of our unjustified anger is the minimum we can do. If we delve deeper, we would go to the root cause of the tantrums that we threw. The finger will point towards our own unsteady and volatile state of mind.

Can't intervene too much on technical aspects: Top court on SIR

Offers broader views on senior advocate's arguments on migrants

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it could not "intervene too much on the technical procedural aspects" of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi made the observation during the final hearings on a batch of pleas challenging the exercise.

The bench was hearing detailed submissions from senior advocate Raju Ramachandran representing petitioners opposed to the SIR.

While the petitioners argued against the arbitrary nature of the exercise, the bench said, "The SIR cannot be seen too much on procedural aspects. Let us keep in mind that they are doing something after 20 years, and the SIR cannot become an annual feature. That is why we cannot intervene too much on the technical procedural aspects."

Meanwhile, on the definition and implication of the term "migrant", Ramachandran said that in the current socio-political discourse, the term was often loaded and used to imply "illegal migrant" or "exodus" rather than domestic movement.

Offering a broader view, Justice Bagchi said, "Migration does not have a domestic import... It is their livelihood which drives them. We have a brain drain which is also migration."

SUPREME COURT

"Migration does not have a domestic import... It is their livelihood which drives them. We have a brain drain which is also migration.

The CJI added a stark reality check regarding labour migration and said, "In North India, trains are full of farm workers from Bihar... They are virtually auctioned and by the time they come to Punjab, they are in tears."

He noted that many such workers had settled in Punjab, their children had imbibed the culture, yet their roots remain in Bihar or West Bengal.

The CJI also cited a recent visit to Havelock Island, noting that out of a population of 25,000, approximately 22,000 were migrants.

On Election Commission

Ramachandran also argued that the Election Commission (EC) could not assume the role of a "suspicious neighbour" or a "policeman" treating voters with doubt.

He assailed the conceptual foundation of the SIR and urged that the poll panel's constitutional mandate was to act as a facilitator and enabler of voting rights.

"The negative way of viewing one's own role is that of a disabler or that of a suspicious policeman," Ramachandran said, adding that when there was an adequate statutory scheme regarding citizenship, the poll panel could not become a "nosy parker" instructing booth-level officers (BLOs) to cast doubt on voters.

On right to vote

He said initiating an inquiry based on a BLO's suspicion effectively amounted to "suspending citizenship". He argued that while the right to vote might be statutory, it flowed from constitutional rights, including Articles 19(1)(a) and 21.

"Removal from an electoral roll on suspicion amounts to giving a power to suspend citizenship," he said. The matter will continue on December 16.

EC launches first-level checking of EVMs in Tamil Nadu

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

With elections a few months away, the first-level checking of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines to be used in the April-May 2026 elections in Tamil Nadu began on Thursday.

About 1.58 lakh EVM units, 81,473 control units and 87,188 VVPATs will undergo various checks till January 24 in the presence of representatives from all recognised political parties. Service engineers from Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) will assist officials in the checking.

District Collectors, who are also District Election Officers (DEOs), opened the strong rooms where the EVMs are kept after the Lok Sabha polls in the presence of party representatives.

"The machines will be checked to see whether they are technically sound and error-free. The buttons on the ballot unit will also be checked. It takes over an hour to check a machine, following which the engineers will decide whether it has passed FLC," Villupuram Collector Sheikh Abdul Rahman said.

All details of the FLC will be uploaded on the EVM Management System website every day, Rahman said, adding that the strong rooms are protected by CCTV cameras, which can be viewed by the Chief Electoral Officer and officials anytime.

The development comes after the ECI conducted a day-long workshop for DEOs on the FLC.

Ethanol-blended petrol safe, saved Rs 1.4L crore: Gadkari

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said that Ethanol-blended petrol has greatly benefited farmers and resulted in saving over Rs 1.40 lakh crore of foreign exchange.

Nitin Gadkari

"Use of E-20 petrol (Ethanol-blended petrol) is a healthy trend. It is a green transition. It is less polluting and saves foreign exchange," he said in Lok Sabha during Question Hour.

The use of Ethanol-blended petrol has been found to bear no adverse impact on the performance of automobiles and commercial vehicles, he said.

Amid concerns over the use of Ethanol-blended petrol, Gadkari said safety norms for E20 fuel have been established through BIS specifications and Automotive Industry Standards.

Compatibility

Tests have shown no issues with drivability or the compatibility of metal and plastic components.

Explaining economic benefits offered by the E20 programme, Gadkari said Indian farmers received around Rs 40,000 crore for supplying sugarcane, maize and other raw materials for the Ethanol blending programme.

Nearly 5.5 crore cases pending in courts, Parliament told

NEW DELHI, PTI: More than 5.49 crore cases are pending across courts, including nearly 90,000 with the Supreme Court, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Thursday.

In a written reply, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said a little over 5.49 crore cases are pending ranging from the top court to the lower judiciary.

While 90,897 cases were pending disposal before the apex court, 63,63,406 were pending with the 25 high courts. The lower courts had a massive pendency of 4,84,57,343 cases as on December 8.

Meghwal said pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors which include complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, cooperation of stakeholders — bar, investigation agencies, witness and litigants — besides the availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff.

CIC selection: Govt rebuts Rahul's dissent

Says 5 of 8 nominees from disadvantaged groups

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

CENTRE'S COUNTER

- Rahul flags 'systemic pattern' of underrepresentation
- Govt says Samariya first-ever CIC from SC community
- Says UPA tenure saw no SC/ST members in CIC
- Rahul says panels dominated by PM Modi and Amit Shah

Responding to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's charge that the list of candidates for Information Commissioners did not include adequate representation from the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, OBC and EBC communities, government sources said the central government had recommended one SC, one ST, one OBC, one minority representative, and one woman.

"Overall, five of the eight recommended names (for Information Commissioners) were from disadvantaged sections. In light of these facts, Rahul Gandhi's claims do not hold up," sources said.

On Wednesday, the three-member committee comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah met to select the Chief Information Officer, eight Information Commissioners and the Vigilance Commissioner. As reported by *DH*, Rahul submitted a dissent note saying that these communities, which account for 90% of the population, were "inadequately" represented. He also said that this underrepresentation pointed to a "systemic pattern".

Government sources pointed to the appointment of Heeralal Samariya as Information Commissioner in 2020 and later, in 2023, as Chief Information Commissioner. Sources said that Samariya is "the first-ever CIC from the Scheduled Caste community."

"From 2005 to 2014, during the UPA government's tenure, not a single person from the SC/ST community was appointed either as a member or as chairperson of the commission. It was the NDA government that, in 2018, appointed Suresh Chandra, a member of the ST community, to the commission," government sources said.

On Tuesday, during his speech on electoral reforms in the Lok Sabha, Rahul said he usually does not have a say. "I sit in that room. On one side are PM Modi and Amit Shah, and on the other side, the LoP. I have no voice. What they decide is what happens," he said.

EC has become govt's puppet: Congress

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Congress and the BJP locked horns in the Rajya Sabha on electoral reforms, with the main Opposition party saying the Election Commission (EC) would have to establish its credibility at a time when it had "become a puppet of the government".

Initiating the "Discussion on Election Reforms", senior Congress MP Ajay Maken said it was the EC's job to stop "vote chori" and asked how democracy could survive when there is no level playing field, transparency, and credibility of the electoral process, which are the three basic conditions for any vibrant democracy.

"The EC will have to establish its credibility because if the umpire himself wears one team's jersey, what will the other team do? If the umpire himself fixes the match, what will the players do?" he asked.

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and BJP lawmaker Jagdambika Pal (left) during the Winter session of Parliament in New Delhi, on Thursday. PTI

He also accused the EC of refusing to provide machine-readable electoral rolls, hiding IP addresses, and destroying CCTV footage after 45 days.

"If there is no wrongdoing, why are you hiding, why are you giving immunity (to Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners)?" he asked.

Fund-amental flaw?

Referring to the absence of a level playing field in the electoral process, he accused the Union government of adopting various methods to deprive the Opposition parties of funds.

He said the BJP's bank balance increased from Rs 87.96 crore in 2004 to Rs 10,107.2 crore in 2024, while that of the Congress rose from Rs 38.48 crore to Rs 133.97 crore in the same period.

"I have spoken to businessmen, big industrialists. They said that during the time of the Congress government, they used to contribute (to political parties) in a 60:40 ratio. At present, let alone 90:10, even at a 95:5 ratio, we (businesses) can't give it to you because the moment we do it, ED [Enforcement Directorate] and I-T [Income-Tax Department] will come after us, and we are not allowed to do anything," he said.

He also mentioned the freezing of the Congress' funds just before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, as well as the EC not providing information to investigators regarding fake applications for voter deletion in Karnataka's Aland.

BJP accuses Trinamool MP of smoking e-cigarettes

NEW DELHI, DHNS: BJP MP Anurag Thakur on Thursday accused a lawmaker from Trinamool Congress of smoking e-cigarettes in the Lok Sabha.

While Thakur did not name any names, he said the MP is from the Trinamool Congress.

"E-cigarettes are banned across the country, and yet they are allowed in the House? Trinamool MPs have been sitting and smoking them for several days; e-cigarettes are being smoked. Please investigate this immediately."

Thakur complained during the Question Hour.

Speaker Om Birla said he will initiate action. "Everyone must adhere to parliamentary traditions and rules. If such matters come to my attention, I will act," Birla said.

After Thakur's complaint, several BJP MPs demanded action against the TMC MP.

Nadda targets Nehru on Vande Mataram

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha J P Nadda on Thursday said the objective of the debate on Vande Mataram was not to defame but to keep the record of India's history "straight", even as he accused the country's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, of succumbing to pressure from communal elements to alter the national song.

Concluding the 'Discussion on the 150th year of Vande Mataram', Nadda said the national song was a mantra for uniting the country, which the British had feared.

"I want to say with a sense of full responsibility that the respect and status that Vande Mataram was to be accorded, it did not receive, and those in power at the time are fully responsible for it," he said, alleging that Nehru had negated its link to India's cultural heritage.

He claimed that the Congress, right from the beginning, had compromised India's culture, ethos and thought process. He said the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, does not contain any provision for a penalty if one disrespects or does not sing Vande Mataram.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh being given a copy of Vallabhbhai Patel's daughter Maniben Patel's Gujarati diary entries by Congress leader Jairam Ramesh. Ramesh said they made no mention of his claim that Jawaharlal Nehru wanted to build Babri Masjid with public funds. PTI

"The country is not run by making compromises. This is our ideology. The Vande Mataram song is linked to our nationalism, and one should move forward keeping nationalism at the forefront," he said.

"Meaningful discussion on the 150th anniversary can take place only if we resolve that Vande Mataram has the same status as the national anthem and the national flag in the Constitution, and it should be added," he said, to which Congress Rajya Sabha Chief Whip Jairam Ramesh responded that both the national song and the national anthem have always had the same status.

Nadda alleged that Nehru had come under pressure from communal elements in 1937 and had allowed the discarding of stanzas that invoked Bharat Mata as Maa Durga.

On the run for 2 weeks, Kerala MLA turns up to vote in local polls

PALAKKAD(KERALA), PTI: Expelled Congress MLA Rahul Mamkootathil on Thursday turned up to cast his vote in the local body polls at Kunnathurmedu ward here, which comes under the BJP-ruled Palakkad Municipality.

The Palakkad MLA turned up to vote after he secured protection from arrest in the two cases of sexual assault against him. He arrived to cast his ballot towards the fag end of the day at around 5 pm and was reportedly greeted by some Congress workers and the party candidate contesting from the ward, and they accompanied him inside the polling booth.

Mamkootathil was absconding for the last more than two weeks after the first FIR was registered against him for sexual assault and forced abortion.

After casting his vote, as the MLA stepped out of the booth, he was surrounded by reporters who bombarded him with questions regarding where he had been hiding till now and what he had to say about the allegations against him.

Mamkootathil finally responded that what he had to say was before the court. "What I have to say, what is said against me, all that is before the court. The court will make a decision. The truth will win, I am confident about that," he said.

No intimidation or communal tactics in Bengal: Didi

KRISHNANAGAR, PTI

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday tore into the BJP over the assault on two food vendors at a recent Bhagavad Gita recital event in Kolkata, asserting that the state would not tolerate intimidation, communal division or attempts to dictate what people should eat.

"This is West Bengal, not Uttar Pradesh," she declared, vowing stringent action against those responsible.

Addressing a public meeting in Krishnanagar in Nadia district, Banerjee said all the accused had been arrested within hours. "They beat up poor patty sellers. We arrested everyone last night. In every gathering, hawkers sell some food or the other. You have beaten a poor hawker. I will not spare anyone who harasses the poor," she said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee being greeted by artistes before a public meeting in Krishnanagar. PTI

Linking the incident to what she described as an atmosphere of fear created in the name of the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls, she alleged, "From SIR to the harassment of poor vendors, everything is part of their conspiracy before elections."

Escalating her attack, Banerjee said the BJP was now engaged in "votebandi" after doing "notebandi".

"First they did notebandi, now they are doing votebandi to win the election in Bengal. They want to win Bengal at any cost. They want to drive out Bengalis and make sure nobody speaks Bengali. Do you want your rights to be snatched away? Do you want your language to be taken away?" she asked.

'One Nation, One Election' review panel term extended

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The tenure of the Joint Committee of Parliament examining the Bills proposing simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies was on Thursday extended until the Budget Session.

Committee Chairman P P Chaudhary, a senior BJP MP, moved the motion seeking an extension of the tenure of the Joint Committee on the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, up to the first day of the last week of the 2026 Budget Session. The motion was adopted by a voice vote in the Lok Sabha.

The tenure of the committee was due to expire, as in the Monsoon Session, time was granted only until the last week of the Winter Session. The 'One Nation, One Election' Bills have drawn criticism from the Opposition.

The Bills were introduced on December 17 in the Lok Sabha last year and referred to the Joint Committee for further scrutiny. The 39-member multi-party panel held its first meeting on January 8 this year.

A section of jurists who have appeared before the panel raised concerns about a provision in the Bill that grants the Election Commission the authority to decide on postponing Assembly elections, arguing that it could violate the basic structure doctrine and Article 14.

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal appeared before the panel on Wednesday, while it is scheduled to meet recently retired former Chief Justice of India BR Gavai on December 17. On the same day, IMF First Deputy Managing Director Gita Gopinath and Sanjeev Sanyal, a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, have also been invited to appear.

Former Chief Justices of India Sanjiv Khanna, D Y Chandrachud, U U Lalit and J S Khehar have appeared before the committee earlier.

Federal structure

Justice Khanna is learnt to have told the panel that postponing elections through the EC may result in an "indirect" imposition of President's Rule, meaning, "in other words," that the reins of the state government would be taken over by the Union government. He believed this "will be questionable judicially, as violating" the federal structure.

Coast Guard seizes Pak boat in Indian waters, apprehends 11

AHMEDABAD, PTI: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has seized a Pakistani fishing boat and apprehended 11 crew members operating illegally in the Indian waters, officials said on Thursday.

The detainees have been handed over to Jakhau Marine Police in Gujarat for further investigation, they said.

The Indian Coast Guard, in a swift action on Wednesday, "apprehended a Pakistani fishing boat with 11 crew inside India's Exclusive Economic Zone," Gujarat Defence PRO Wing Commander Abhishek Kumar Tiwari said in a post on X.

After mosque row, Ayodhya-style Ram Temple proposed in Bengal

KOLKATA, PTI: In a sharp escalation of Bengal's temple-mosque political duel ahead of the assembly polls, posters appeared across Salt Lake on Thursday announcing plans for an Ayodhya-style Ram temple complex on the metropolis's eastern fringes, promising a school, hospital, old-age home and other welfare facilities.

The posters, attributed to local BJP leader and former local unit president Sanjay Poyra, have come up in several prominent pockets of Bidhannagar.

They proclaim that a Ram temple "similar to the Ayodhya structure" will be erected on a four-bigha plot and invite residents to contribute Re 1 each as donation for the project.

The development comes just days after suspended TMC MLA Humayun Kabir laid the foundation stone of a Babri Masjid-styled mosque in Rejinagar, Murshidabad, on December 6, the anniversary of the 1992 demolition, under unprecedented security.

On the same day, the BJP held a parallel ceremony in Banjatiya's Manindra Nagar, also in Murshidabad, where local leaders initiated groundwork for a Ram temple, taking sharp aim at CM Mamata Banerjee for "appeasing politics".

With Salt Lake now entering the arena, the battleground has moved close to the state's administrative heart, giving the political tug-of-war an unmistakable symbolic edge.

Speaking to reporters, Poyra described the initiative as a social-spiritual movement rooted in 'Ram Rajya'. On the specifics of land, Poyra remained guarded. Poyra announced that the bhumi pujan and foundation stone-laying ceremony will be held on March 26, coinciding with Ram Navami.

A senior political analyst said the sequence of events, a Babri-model mosque announced on December 6, a Ram temple foundation ceremony by BJP in Murshidabad the same day, and now Salt Lake's Ayodhya-inspired temple pitch, shows how "both sides are weaponising religious imagery to energise polarised constituencies".

With upcoming Assembly elections, Bengal appears headed for an intense season of competitive symbolism, where shrines and scriptures have become political battlegrounds as much as ideological markers.

Govt is with every affected family: Prez in Manipur

'Committed to promoting equitable development'

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

In her first visit to Manipur since the Meitei-Kuki conflict erupted in May 2023, President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said the Union government stood with every affected family.

"I am aware of the pain that the people of Manipur have gone through following the unfortunate violence. I want to assure you that taking care of the concerns of Manipur's people is our highest priority," she added while addressing a civic reception function in Imphal on Thursday.

The President landed in Imphal amid a boycott call by a forum of Valley-based insurgent groups and an appeal by leaders of both Meitei and Kuki communities for the restoration of peace.

"The Union government remains fully committed to strengthening harmony, ensuring security, and supporting Manipur in its journey towards stability and prosperity. The government is also committed to promoting equitable development across the state, and will ensure that its fruits reach every corner," Murmu said.

President Droupadi Murmu during her Manipur visit, in Imphal. PTI

The President witnessed an exhibition polo match at the historic Mapal Kangjeibung before inaugurating several infrastructure, sports, and cultural development projects during the civic reception function at Imphal's City Convention Centre.

She expressed confidence that the people from the Valley and the hills would remain together and take the state to greater heights of prosperity and happiness. She also urged the people of Manipur to continue supporting measures for harmony and development.

The President later met a group of displaced persons taking shelter in Imphal

Her visit came amid displaced persons, who are taking shelter in the Valley, agitating for steps to ensure their return to their original homes in the Kuki-dominated areas.

Blue planet to red desert: Scientists decode Mars' frozen fate

IIT research reveals why Mars became an icy planet while Earth thrived

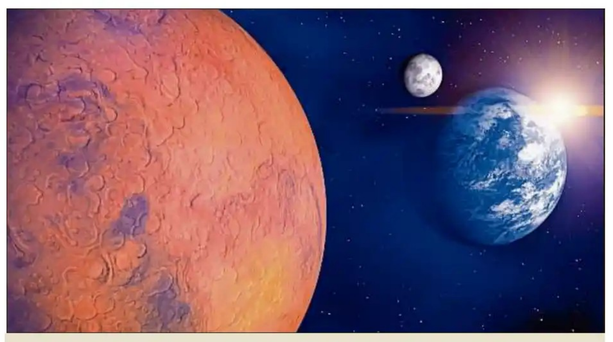
KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Why didn't Mars evolve along the same lines as Earth, even though both planets originated from the same cosmic dust cloud, beginning their planetary lives almost at the same time? Indian scientists now offer an answer.

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, and their collaborators examined the Red Planet with images captured by Nasa, the European Space Agency and Isro's Mars Orbiter Mission. They recreated the planet's history—from a wet and warm past to a cold, icy future.

Earth and Mars were born from the same cosmic system, beginning their planetary lives together approximately 4.5 billion years ago. But their evolutionary paths have diverged dramatically. Earth is a blue planet teeming with liquid water and life, while Mars is a cold, red desert.

Yet a closer look at the Martian surface reveals geological similarities to Earth. The complex valley networks, ancient deltas and sedimentary landforms of the Martian highlands are potential evidence of a time when the Red Planet sustained water flows and glaciers, and even geological activity.



VANISHED WORLD

- Earth and Mars began together 4.5 billion years ago but evolved differently
- Valley networks, deltas and sedimentary landforms hint at Mars' watery past. It transitioned from warm and wet to progressively colder and icier conditions

"Both started with similar compositions and atmospheres. So, one of the most pressing questions is: where did all that water go, and why didn't Mars evolve along the same direction as Earth?" said lead scientist Alok Porwal of IIT Bombay.

Porwal, his student Dibyendu Ghosh and collaborators Malcolm Aranha, Sandeepan Dhoundiyal, Guneshwar Thangjam and Ranjan Sarkar from other institutions used high-resolution data from two Nasa missions, an ESA probe and the Indian Space Research Organisation's Mars mission to look at Thaumasia Highlands, an ancient region on Mars.

Their study points to a gradual shift in climate from a warm, wet past to an icy future. "We looked at Mars from a hydrological point of view and analysed features that could have been formed by rivers, glacial and groundwater erosion. We wanted to figure out how the hot and wet planet was transformed," Parwal told *DH*.

The study confirms that the majority of the valley networks on Mars were carved predominantly by surface water during the planet's earliest major geological era, around 4.1-3.7 billion years ago. By around 3.7-3 billion years ago, the processes were halted, with the valleys showing increasing signs of modification by groundwater erosion and glacial impacts.

What triggered the change? "Because Mars is smaller in size, its core solidified, causing it to lose its protective magnetic field and leaving it exposed to cosmic rays. In contrast, Earth still has a molten core and consequently retains its magnetic field," he explained.

The study appeared in 'Advances of Space Research'.

Gaganyaan's first unmanned test launch set for Dec-end

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

V Narayanan

The first of three unmanned rocket test launches as part of Gaganyaan, the country's first human spaceflight programme, is scheduled to be carried out by the end of this year, Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) chairman Dr V Narayanan said on Thursday.

Speaking to reporters in Tirunelveli district, Narayanan said the Gaganyaan mission will be launched in 2027 as scheduled, with the space agency successfully conducting over 8,000 experiments, including simulations for air quality, temperature control, waste management, and emergency responses.

"The first unmanned mission will be launched late 2025, followed by two more in 2026 to validate the entire stack, which includes the rocket, crew module, and re-entry systems. We are working tirelessly on the Gaganyaan mission, which will send Indian astronauts to space using our own rocket," Narayanan said.

The Isro chief said the mission relies heavily on the Environmental Control and Life Support System (ECLSS) to ensure the safety and comfort of the astronauts during their time in orbit.

"Every test we have conducted so far has been successful. We have learned invaluable lessons to refine the technology. Gaganyaan is not about reaching space alone, but it is about inspiring the next generation of scientists," Narayanan added.

The statement by the Isro chairman comes months after the agency accomplished the first integrated air drop test for the Gaganyaan programme at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

According to Isro, this test successfully demonstrated the objective of end-to-end performance validation of the critical parachute-based deceleration system of the crew module for the Gaganyaan mission in one of the typical mission scenarios.

"we lifted off a simulated module using a helicopter to a height of around three km above the Earth. Using nine parachutes, it was successfully splashed down," the Isro Chairman had said in October.

PM to visit Jordan, Ethiopia & Oman from Dec 15-18

NEW DELHI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a four-day visit to Jordan, Ethiopia and Oman from December 15, an official statement said.

Prime Minister Modi will undertake a visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from December 15 to 16 at the invitation of King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein. During the visit, the prime minister will meet Hussein to review the entire gamut of relations between India and Jordan, and exchange perspectives on regional issues.

This visit, marking the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, presents an opportunity to further strengthen India-Jordan bilateral engagement, explore new avenues of collaboration for mutual growth and prosperity, and reiterate India's commitment to promote regional peace, prosperity, security and stability, the statement said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

In the second leg of the visit, PM Modi will pay a state visit to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia from December 16 to 17 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed Ali. This will be Modi's first visit to Ethiopia.

He will be holding wide-ranging discussions with Ali on all aspects of India-Ethiopia bilateral ties. As partners in the Global South, the visit will be a reiteration of the shared commitment of the two nations to advance close ties of friendship and bilateral cooperation, according to the statement.

In the final leg of his visit, Prime Minister Modi will visit the Sultanate of Oman from December 17 to 18 at the invitation of Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. This will be the second visit of Prime Minister Modi to Oman.

India and Oman share an all-encompassing strategic partnership underpinned by centuries-old bonds of friendship, trade linkages and strong people-to-people ties. The visit will mark 70 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, and follows the state visit of Sultan of Oman to India in December 2023.

This visit will be an opportunity for both sides to comprehensively review the bilateral partnership, including in the areas of trade, investment, energy, defence, security, technology, agriculture and culture as well as exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, the statement added.

2 from J&K held in Arunachal on espionage charges

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Arunachal Pradesh police have arrested two men hailing from Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir over alleged espionage links tied to Pakistan-based handlers.

The two were arrested on November 22 from houses near the state capital, Itanagar. Police said the duo were arrested for allegedly collecting sensitive information on troop movement and maintaining covert links with Pakistan-based handlers. A hunt is on for a few more associates, a police officer said.

Intelligence inputs suggested that they were trying to activate "anti-national operatives" in Arunachal Pradesh, a state sharing a border with Tibet, the police added.

The first accused, Nazir Ahmad Malik of Kupwara district, was arrested on November 22 from Ganga village near Itanagar. Later, another accused, Sabbir Ahmed, was arrested based on Malik's inputs, police said.

Fertiliser crunch deepens farm distress in Kerala

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The shortage has hit pineapple cultivation.

AGRICULTURAL CRISIS

- Centre allocated 43,150 tonnes of urea for Oct-Dec, but only 18,164 tonnes reached state
- Pineapple cultivation hit, with prices soaring to Rs 38/kg
- Centre's nano fertiliser push blamed for scarcity
- Farmers fear productivity losses and financial setbacks
- Concerns of black marketing rise amid shortage

At a time when fertiliser scarcity has allegedly driven farmers in Madhya Pradesh to take their own lives, cultivators in Kerala too are facing a grim situation.

The Centre had allocated 43,150 tonnes of urea to Kerala for the October-December period this year. However, the state has so far received only 18,164 tonnes.

The shortage has already hit pineapple cultivation in the state, with the price of the fruit soaring to record levels.

"The state government has been repeatedly urging the Centre over the past several months to ensure adequate fertiliser supply. But so far, there has been no positive response. This could severely impact the agricultural productivity and push farmers into a deep crisis," Kerala Agriculture Minister P Prasad told *DH*.

Both the state government and farmers believe that the Union government's push to promote nano fertilisers is a key reason behind the scarcity.

They also point out that the Centre has been regulating fertiliser imports to encourage locally produced alternatives, while trying to reduce the subsidy burden.

Desiya Karshaka Sangham leader Muthalamthode Mani said urea and potash were vital not only for paddy but also for other crops.

"This is the crucial time for supplying fertilisers for paddy. Farmers are struggling to access adequate quantities. Unless the government intervenes immediately, productivity will suffer and cultivators will face heavy losses," he warned.

Meanwhile, pineapple prices have defied the usual December slump. Usually low during the harvest season, rates have surged to Rs 38 per kg—the highest in recent years. Prices stood at Rs 30 in 2024 and Rs 24 in 2023.

"Owing to the untimely supply of fertilisers, both the quality and quantity of the crop have been hit. As a result, prices are now on the higher side, even though they used to remain low during December," said Pineapple Growers Association Keralam president Baby John.

Farmers also fear that the continuing scarcity of fertilisers could lead to black marketing.

Telangana's 'Future City' steals a march on Andhra's Amaravati

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

FOURTH CITY RISING

- 'Bharat Future City', or the fourth city, is mapped along ORR, Srisailam Highway, Nagarjunasagar Highway, near Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
- To feature six themed hubs – AI City, Health City, Entertainment District, Sports Hub, Education Zone, Eco-Tourism Hub
- Designed for 9 lakh residents and 13 lakh job opportunities

Even as neighbouring Andhra Pradesh pins its ambitions on Amaravati, a greenfield capital city projected to attract Rs 1 lakh crore investments, Telangana appears to be stealing a march with its own experiment — a virgin greenfield "fourth" and "Future City" south of Hyderabad.

Named Bharat Future City, this is the fourth big city in Telangana after Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Cyberabad.

Meanwhile, Amaravati has been in the making for almost a decade, with many crucial works still pending.

Planned beyond the existing limits of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), Telangana's new urban nucleus is mapped across a fast-emerging corridor framed by the Outer Ring Road (ORR), Srisailam Highway and Nagarjunasagar Highway, with the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) a short drive away.

The Telangana government envisions the project as a strategic effort to decongest Hyderabad's core while creating a smart, resilient, and future-ready urban centre.

The FCDA

To that end, the state has set up the Future City Development Authority (FCDA) to plan and regulate integrated urban development over 765 sq km on the city's southern edge, anchored within a 13,500-acre greenfield site.

Telangana's key advantages include large tracts of land already under its control, the site being barely 25 km from an international airport, and strong connectivity through the ORR and other major transport corridors.

The master plan envisages six themed cities alongside residential zones, designed for the state's next phase of urban and economic expansion.

'Future-proof city'

"Once complete, Bharat Future City is designed to accommodate an estimated 9 lakh residents and create employment for nearly 13 lakh people. It is a future-proof city that not only aligns with Telangana's long-term economic vision but also sets new benchmarks for inclusive, climate-responsive urban design in India," said a senior FCDA official.

Its master plan adopts a cluster-based development strategy to ensure balanced land use, economic synergy, and efficient mobility.

Key districts are organised in defined grids with arterial roads, while industrial zones are positioned around the central business district to ensure visibility and accessibility. This structure supports the city's live-work-innovate-learn-and-play philosophy.

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(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ – ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಎನ್.ಎ.ಬಿ.ಹೆಚ್. ನಿಂದ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ಬನ್ನೇರುಘಟ್ಟ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 069

SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH
(Govt. of Karnataka Regd. Autonomous & NABH Accredited Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore – 560 069. Ph.: 080 22977278 Fax No.: 080 22977278
E-mail: director.sjicr@gmail.com Website: www.jayadevacardiology.com

Ref. No. SJICR/EST(1)/126/2025-26 Date: 11.12.2025

CORRIGENDUM

In the Notification No. SJICR/EST(1)/126/2025-26, Dated: 10.12.2025 for the Walk-in-Interview published in the News paper on 11.12.2025, age limit for the Post of Professor of Cardiology may be read as: GM - 40 Years + 3 Years for all categories as one time measure as per the G.O. No.: ಸಿಆಸುಇ/262/ಸೇನೇನಿ/2025 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.09.2025.

Sd/-,
DIRECTOR

Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development, Division, Kashipur Circle, Shivamogga-577204.

SECTION 1-INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS KW-3 & 4

Dated:10.12.2025 IFT No.: 29/2025-26.

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development Division, Shivamogga invites tenders in Standard Bid Document KW-3 and KW-4 through kpp-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka, viz.,http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from eligible contractors for the works of Thirthahalli Taluk coming under M.I sub-divisions SHIVAMOGGA amounting from Rs.65.55 lakhs to Rs. 228.24 lakhs.. Period of downloading tender documents from e-procurement portal: From 11.12.2025 to 22.12.2025 upto 17:00 hrs. Tender opening date at 17.15 hrs on 23.12.2025. Any other details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days. Details published on the e-procurement website @ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in are final.

Sd/- Executive Engineer M.I & G.W.D. Division, Shimoga.

DIPR/smg/KSMCA/25-26/50/12/1368

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti-586201. Tq:Nidagundi Dt: Vijayapur.
Phone:08426-281027 E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com

No: KBJNL/DDA/DB/TND/2025-26/2388 Dated:11.12.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore the undersigned invites tender on Item Rate & Percentage basis from the eligible contractors for the work indents of **Two Cover** – (1) I .No. 2463– 50.73 Lakhs **The contractor can have access and submit e-tender from 11.12.2025 to 20.12.2025 up to 5-00 PM. Cover-I (Technical) Bid will be opened on 22.12.2025 at 11-00AM for Two Covers Technical Bid will be opened on Dt: 22.12.2025 & Financial Bid Opened on Dt: 28.12.2025** at the Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti. For clarifications office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours (Phone No. 08426-281027). Further information about electronic tendering can be had from kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/536/ಕೆಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayat, Chitradurga
Youth Empowerment and Sports Department
The Office of the Assistant Director, District Stadium, Chitradurga-577501
Tel: 08194-235635 e-mail: adyeschitradurga@gmail.com

No:AD/YESD/Chitradurga/O.S.E.Tender/2025-26 Date: 08.12.2025

E-Tender Notice

Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, Chitradurga, has invited e-tenders under the KTPP Rules through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ for the provision of essential staff services for the Chitradurga District Stadium, Taluk Stadiums and Indoor Stadiums under the jurisdiction of Chitradurga through an external resource agency. The details are as follows.

(1) Tender Publication Date : No:AD/YESD/Chitradurga/O.S.E.Tender/2025-26 Date: 08-12-2025 **(2)** Date for receipt of tender forms online: from 09-12-2025 to 07-01-2026 at 05-00 PM **(3)** Last date for uploading and submission of e-tender (in two envelopes): 09-01-2026 at 05-00 PM **(4)** Place and Date of Opening of Technical Cover: at the office of the Assistant Director, Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, District Stadium, Chitradurga-577501 on 12-01-2026 at 11-00 AM **(5)** Estimated amount for tender: Rs. 2,18,30,472-00 **(6)** EMD to be paid along with e-tender Amount: Rs. 4,36,609-00 **(7)** Tender Period : Three (3) years **(8)** Officer to be dealt with and address and telephone number: Assistant Director, Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, District Stadium, Chitradurga-577501 Tel: 08194-235635 For more details, please visit: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/525/2025-26

Sd/- Assistant Director,
Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, Chitradurga.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 3 ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ.
ತಾ:: ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ, ಜಿ: ಧಾರವಾಡ 580023.ಫೋನ್ : 0836–2315225 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ :2315226.
e-mail : knnl@knnlindia.com e-mail : eeknnl3byt@gmail.com Website: www.knnlindia.com

ಸಂ.ಕನೀನಿನಿ/ಮಬದವಿ–3/ಎ.ಇ–2/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/2025–26/1684
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11–12–2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ-ಪ್ರೆಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ, ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ:3, ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ **(WI NO: KNNL/2024-25/FP/WORK_INDENT2891)** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೆಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: Flood Control and Flood Management for Management for Tuparihalla phase-II upto Confluence of Bennihalla from Km 0.000 to Km90.00. (WI NO:-KNNL/2024-25/FP/WORK_INDENT2891)
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 135.36 ಕೋಟಿ + ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 1.36 ಕೋಟಿ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೆಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16–12–2025** ರಂದು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು, **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12–01–2026** ರ ' ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ: 4.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07–01–2026** ರಂದು **ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, 4ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಕಾಫಿ ಬೋರ್ಡ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಂ:1, ಡಾ॥ ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ ವೀಧಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560001.** ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16–01–2026** ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ: 11:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ **ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ:3, ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ** ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ **ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರ ಮೊ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 99026 66423** ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಯಾವದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ, ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ: 3
ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/973/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2025–26

Individuals' rights always subservient to nation's interest: Supreme Court

Apex court says 'individual cannot always be the centre of attention'

NEW DELHI, PTI

An individual's rights are always subservient to the nation's interest, the Supreme Court said on Thursday, emphasising that the rights guaranteed under the Constitution's Article 21 must always be protected, but could not be the sole ground for bail in cases where the country's security or integrity was called into question.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh made the observations while hearing an appeal filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against the bail granted to certain accused in connection with the 2010 derailment of the Jnaneswari Express in West Bengal's West Midnapore district.

The Mumbai-bound train had derailed near Jhargram and was then hit by an oncoming goods train, leading to the death of 148 passengers. Authorities had said the derailment, which took place at around 1 am on May 28, 2010, was the result of alleged sabotage by Maoists.

The incident took place soon after a four-day bandh called by the CPI (Maoist) had come into force.

The top court said interfering with the accused's liberty at this stage, particularly when nothing else held against them, would not be justified. It said the CBI could not bring to its notice any subsequent development that would justify this interference.

"There can be no manner of doubt on the proposition that the Article 21 rights are placed on a pedestal, and rightly so. At the same time though, the individual cannot always be the centre of attention."

"Certain cases, such as the instant one, demand by their very nature and effect that the issue presented is looked at from a much wider point of view, that is, national security. We observe, therefore, that while the Article 21 rights must always be protected, in cases where the security or integrity of the nation is called into question, that cannot be the sole ground of consideration," the bench said.

Issuing a slew of directions, it asked the trial court to take stock of the matter and record in its order the status and the reasons for the trial's pendency for years.

"From that day forth, the matter shall be taken up on a day-to-day basis. The granting of adjournments shall be eschewed unless exceptional circumstances are shown. We request the administrative judge of the HC, as nominated by the learned chief justice, to seek a report every four weeks from the trial judge and ensure that the directions are being complied with," the bench said.

Umar Khalid gets interim bail to attend sister's wedding

NEW DELHI, PTI: A Delhi court on Thursday granted interim bail from December 16 to 29 to former JNU student Umar Khalid to attend his sister's wedding.

Umar Khalid

Additional Sessions Judge Sameer Bajpai granted interim relief to Khalid, who is an accused in the case regarding the larger conspiracy behind the 2020 Delhi riots.

The judge directed the accused to furnish a personal bond of Rs 20,000 and two sureties of like amount.

"During the interim bail period, the applicant (Khalid) shall not use social media," the court said, directing him to "only meet his family members, relatives and friends".

It said Khalid also had to "remain at his home or at the places where the ceremonies of marriage, as mentioned by him will take place".

Other conditions included the accused not contacting any witness and providing his mobile phone number to the investigating officer.

The court directed Khalid to surrender before the prison authorities on the evening of December 29.

Last year, he was granted an interim bail of seven days to attend another wedding.

He was also granted a similar relief in 2022.

SC bins ex-IPS officer's plea to suspend jail term in drug case

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected a plea filed by former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt seeking suspension of the 20-year jail sentence imposed on him in a 1996 drug seizure case.

Sanjiv Bhatt

A bench of Justices JK Maheshwari and Vijay Bishnoi said it was not inclined to entertain the matter. It was hearing an appeal filed by Bhatt seeking suspension of sentence in the case.

A sessions court in Palanpur town of Gujarat's Banaskantha district had sentenced Bhatt to 20 years in the case dating back to 1996.

Bhatt was found guilty of falsely implicating a Rajasthan-based lawyer by claiming that in 1996, police had seized drugs from a hotel room in Palanpur where the lawyer was staying.

Bhatt, who was sacked from service in 2015, was a superintendent of police in Banaskantha district in 1996.

The district police under him had arrested Sumersingh Rajpurohit, claiming they had seized drugs from a hotel room in Palanpur, where he was staying.

However, the Rajasthan police later said Rajpurohit was falsely implicated by Banaskantha police to compel him to transfer a disputed property in Rajasthan's Pali.

Former police inspector I B Vyas had moved the Gujarat High Court in 1999 demanding a thorough inquiry. Bhatt was arrested by state CID in September 2018.

Last year, the former IPS officer had approached the Supreme Court seeking transfer of the trial to another sessions court alleging bias. He had also sought directions for recording of the proceedings.

However, the Supreme Court dismissed Bhatt's plea and imposed a cost of Rs 3 lakh on him for alleging bias against a lower court judge.

Humanitarian considerations can't override statutory minimum punishment: SC

NEW DELHI, PTI: Humanitarian considerations cannot override the statutory minimum punishment mandated by the legislature, the Supreme Court said on Thursday while refusing to interfere with the sentence imposed on a woman in a narcotic case.

The apex court delivered its verdict on an appeal by the woman challenging a June 2024 order of the Madras High Court, which upheld her conviction and 10-year sentence in the case lodged under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

While dismissing her appeal, a bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Vipul M Pancholi noted that the appellant, who was 24 years old at the time of the incident in 2019, has urged the court to consider her age, lack of prior criminal history and responsibility towards her minor child.

The bench said that while it was not unmindful of the appellant's circumstances, the NDPS Act prescribes a minimum mandatory sentence for possession of a commercial quantity.

"The court has no discretion to reduce the sentence below the statutory minimum under section 20(b)(ii)(C) of the NDPS Act. Humanitarian considerations, though relevant for executive remission, cannot override statutory minimum punishment mandated by the legislature," the bench said.

It noted that according to the prosecution, the appellant and her husband were intercepted in September 2019 and after the police searched the vehicle, 23.5 kg of 'ganja' was seized.

A trial court convicted them and imposed a 10-year sentence along with a fine.

Both convicts approached the high court, which confirmed the conviction and sentence imposed by the trial court.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

SURVEY: DOES YOUR HUSBAND USE LAME EXCUSES TO AVOID SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS?
HA, THIS IS EASY! NO!
HUH? WHAT ABOUT SKIPPING THE PARTY THAT TERRI AND VIC THREW FOR THEIR DOG'S BIRTHDAY?
THAT WAS DIFFERENT!
I'D BEEN PLANNING ALL WEEK TO ALPHABETIZE MY COLD CUTS!

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

I HAVE AN IDEA
WHY DON'T WE TRY TO FIND A FAMILY AROUND HERE THAT WOULD ADOPT SPIKE?
CAN YOU THINK OF ANY REASON WHY SOMEONE MIGHT NOT WANT HIM?
WELL, HIS BACKHAND IS A LITTLE WEAK...

Marvin

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ETPYT

PAATD

BCOUEN

SOLIAC

The shaft is made from pterodactyleye maple. Will you look at the quality of that blade.
OK, it's great. Now, get that out of my face.
6/3
HE DIDN'T MIND HIS BUDDY SHOWING OFF HIS NEW SPEAR, ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FRONT GIANT VIOLIN GROWTH
Answer: The zero loved his job because there was — NOTHING TO IT

◆SU-DO-KU-6775◆

		3						2
	6				3		8	
	2		6	4	8	9		
	9	7						
8				2				5
						7	1	
		2	8	7	4		5	
	1		5				4	
5						2		

medium

SOLUTION TO 6774

2	1	6	3	9	4	7	5	8
9	5	7	8	6	1	2	3	4
3	4	8	5	7	2	1	9	6
6	8	3	1	2	7	9	4	5
5	7	4	6	3	9	8	1	2
1	2	9	4	8	5	6	7	3
4	6	2	9	1	3	5	8	7
7	9	5	2	4	8	3	6	1
8	3	1	7	5	6	4	2	9

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

HITORI-3229

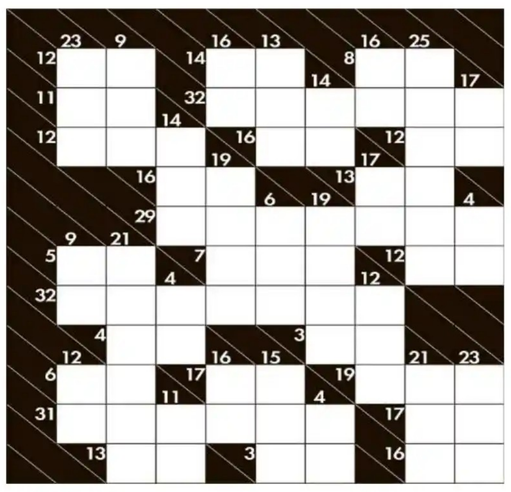
8	4	8	8	2	2	1	3
6	5	4	1	8	7	3	8
8	7	1	8	5	5	2	6
2	3	2	7	1	6	8	8
7	8	2	6	8	1	8	2
3	1	8	2	6	8	5	2
5	8	8	4	3	2	6	5
8	2	6	3	8	5	1	4

SOLUTION TO 3228

■	8	3	■	4	■	6	1
2	■	1	7	5	6	■	8
7	5	■	3	8	■	1	4
8	■	7	6	■	4	2	3
1	2	5	■	7	8	4	■
4	■	6	1	■	2	8	5
■	1	4	5	6	3	■	2
6	4	■	2	■	1	5	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3229



SOLUTION TO 3228

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3763

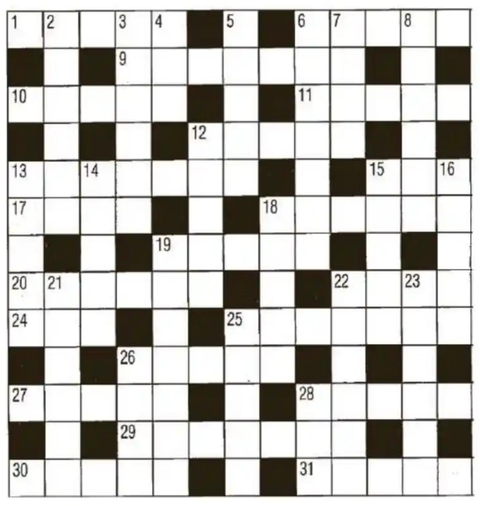
■	7				2			5
	■						■	
		6	7		3	■		
			2		6		1	
				■		4	3	6
			■		■	9		7
		2				7	5	
4	■						■	
8				6	5			■

SOLUTION TO 3762

8	2	1	9	4	7	3	5	6
9	4	3	5	1	6	7	2	8
6	5	7	3	2	8	1	9	4
7	8	9	1	3	5	4	6	2
2	1	5	6	9	4	8	7	3
4	3	6	8	7	2	5	1	9
1	9	4	2	5	3	6	8	7
5	7	8	4	6	9	2	3	1
3	6	2	7	8	1	9	4	5

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12308



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Be a horrifyingly bad father, mate! (5)
6 Extra lean (5)
9 To be found in a legal location (7)
10 Oliver's turn (5)
11 In Ayr, perhaps, it's wet (5)
12 What to wear for a bit of bathing, maybe? (5)
13 Abstain from singing, perhaps (7)
15 What the maharajah had to say? (3)
17 Something to stand in the kitchen (4)
18 More experienced in naval service? (6)
19 Those strangely addressed as "Jimmy"? (5)
20 A very wet thing to do! (6)
22 Happy occasion in the cafeteria (4)
24 Help at first? (3)
25 Begged not to be considered guilty? (7)
26 Claud, managing to be noble (5)
27 Vessel successfully raised by a captain (2,3)
28 Book a Hercules lookalike (5)
29 Everybody, for instance, has the right to love music (7)
30 She's out of line, fiddling the dole! (5)
31 In plain fact, a letter can possibly hurt (5)

DOWN
2 N. American Indian being kept by uncle? (6)
3 Declare to be a cert (6)
4 Having come down, it's on the left (3)
5 Unpretentiously, the only thing you can be! (5)
6 Steps taken to keep the legs warm, in Oz (7)
7 Woven tape useful to gardeners (4)
8 A cattle place, nothing more (6)
12 Knotty problem? (5)
13 With love in her heart, she's hard to upset (5)
14 A deft shuffle, to be sure (5)
15 Tried to be medium to excellent (5)
16 Prepared to dream wildly (5)
18 Seat you could give your last pound for? (5)
19 Doubt or hesitation carries little weight (7)
21 Not all tribal dances are rude (6)
22 Agent in favour of including an act (6)
23 He has both an address and an occupation (6)
25 Criticise the Spanish group (5)
26 Of the two having a duel, we hear (4)
28 He's got the knack (3)

EASY

ACROSS
1 Lead (5)
6 Gunpowder ingredient (5)
9 In name only (7)
10 Woo (5)
11 Having flavour (5)
12 Started (5)
13 Horse (7)
15 Illuminated (3)
17 Unit of land (4)
18 Yachting dock (6)
19 Edible mollusc (5)
20 Pressed (6)
22 Father (4)
24 Vehicle (3)
25 Break (7)
26 Metal fastener (5)
27 Buffalo (5)
28 Medical stand-in (5)
29 Fought (7)
30 Transparent (5)
31 Postpone (5)

DOWN
2 Sensual (6)
3 Flashing light (6)
4 Strike (3)
5 Stifled (5)
6 Unaffected (7)
7 M East country (4)
8 Keep (6)
12 Mix (5)
13 Sudden terror (5)
14 Mistake (5)
15 Extent (5)
16 Narrow (5)
18 Power (5)
19 Teaching session (7)
21 Enrapture (6)
22 Paced (6)
23 Reprimand (6)
25 Chairs (5)
26 Dress (4)
28 Guided (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12307

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, Sadi-St. 7, Star-t out 8, On-line 10, Da-te-d 13, Cool 14, E-yes 15, Col.-t 16, He-y 17, Heap 19, Fear 21, Head start 23, Mars 24, Horn 26, Roy 27, Tr-o-y 29, Ices 32, Reap 33, Lean-t 34, Resort 35, Ex-pertly 36, Camp-US.
DOWN: 1, Aside 2, Paste 3, Stud 4, St-o-ol 5, Doll 6, Sinner 9, Not far 11, Aye 12, Es-her 13, Cop shop 15, CAD 16, Hat 18, E-aster 20, Ern-I-e 21, Hay 22, To-y 23, Modena 25, Den 28, Rates 30, C-aste 31, S-Tay-S 32, Ro-MP 33, Lies.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Splash 7, Innocent 8, Estate 10, Stale 13, News 14, Take 15, Vole 16, Fed 17, Main 19, Dole 21, Monastery 23, Cons 24, Tend 26, Yob 27, Wood 29, Ewer 32, Heap 33, Drama 34, Abhors 35, Inflates 36, Status.
DOWN: 1, First 2, Sneak 3, Ache 4, Steel 5, Lets 6, Settee 9, Sweden 11, Tax 12, Lemon 13, Nonstop 15, Via 16, Fly 18, Answer 20, Order 21, Mob 22, Ted 23, Combat 25, Gem 28, Oasis 30, Waste 31, Raise 32, Hoot 33, Dull.

SCRABBLE™

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								RACK 1
R1	N1	Y4	A1	K5	S1	R1	5th Letter Triple	
								RACK 2
A1	L1	U1	R1	M3	B3	A1		
								RACK 3
Y4	C3	A1	N1	R1	W4	S1	Triple Word Score	
								RACK 4
A1	E1	B3	T1	R1	R1	R1	Double Word Score	

PAR SCORE 125-135
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

F4	I1	F4	T1	E1	E1	N1	RACK 1 =	76
W4	E1	A1	K5	E1	N1	S1	RACK 2 =	66
B3	A1	L1	L1	E1	T1		RACK 3 =	8
M3	O1	T1	M3	O1	T1	S1	RACK 4 =	83
							JUDD'S TOTAL	233

PAR SCORE 150-160

Bangladesh sets first post-uprising polls for Feb 12

Referendum to run with national vote

DHAKA, AFP

Bangladesh will hold national elections on February 12, the Electoral Commission announced on Thursday, marking the country's first vote since a student-led uprising toppled former prime minister Sheikh Hasina last year.

A referendum on a landmark democratic reform charter will be held on the same day, Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin said in a televised address to the nation.

The Muslim-majority country of 170 million has been in turmoil since Hasina was ousted in August 2024, ending her 15-year rule. Her former ruling party, the Awami League, has been banned from contesting the polls. The party on Thursday rejected the polls schedule prepared by the "illegal government's illegal election commission" and demanded a neutral caretaker government to hold "free and participatory" elections.

The country's interim leader, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus — who returned from exile in August 2024 at the urging of protesters to head a caretaker government — will step down after the election.

POLITICAL TRANSITION

- The election will be the first democratic exercise since Sheikh Hasina was ousted in a student-led uprising in 2024
- The banned Awami League is excluded, while the BNP faces uncertainty as its leader Khaleda Zia is critically ill
- Caretaker leader Muhammad Yunus will step down after the election

"In this election process, we expect cordial participation and active cooperation from all political parties, rival candidates and voters," Uddin said. "I urge everyone to play a historic role in our democratic journey by making the upcoming 13th national parliament election a success."

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), led by three-time former prime minister Khaleda Zia, is widely favoured to win. However, Zia remains in intensive care in Dhaka, while her son and political heir, Tarique Rahman, has lived in exile in Britain for 17 years.

Zia, 80, has long suffered from ill health, including during her imprisonment under Hasina's government. Rahman, 60 — widely known in Bangladesh as Tarique Zia — says he fled to London due to politically motivated persecution.

He has said he intends to run in the election and is regarded as a leading contender for prime minister, but has not yet returned to see his mother in hospital.

Voters will elect 300 members of parliament from individual constituencies. Another 50 seats are reserved for women and allocated to parties in proportion to their parliamentary strength.

There are an estimated 127 million registered voters, including more than four million first-time voters, according to the commission. Although barred from the polls, the once-dominant Awami League still retains a loyal support base. Human Rights Watch has condemned the ban as "draconian". Hasina, 78, was sentenced to death in absentia in November for crimes against humanity and remains in hiding in India.

Myanmar hospital attack kills 34

BANGKOK, AP/PTI: An airstrike by Myanmar's military destroyed a hospital in an area controlled by a leading rebel armed force, killing 34 patients and medical staff.

About 80 other people were injured in the attack on Wednesday night on the general hospital in Mrauk-U township, an area controlled by the ethnic Arakan Army.

The ruling military has not announced news of any attack in the area. Wai Hun Aung, a senior official for rescue services in Rakhine, said a jet fighter dropped two bombs at 9:13 pm with one hitting the hospital's recovery ward and the other landing near the hospital's main building.

Trump's 'gold card' scheme goes live

Fast-track US residency starting at $1 million

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

President Donald Trump announced on Wednesday that his long-promised "gold card" was officially going on sale, offering legal status and a pathway to US citizenship for individuals paying $1 million and for corporations contributing twice that amount per foreign-born employee.

A website accepting applications went live as Trump unveiled the programme while surrounded by business leaders in the White House's Roosevelt Room. The initiative replaces the EB-5 visa system, created by Congress in 1990 to generate foreign investment and previously available to people who invested around $1 million in a company employing at least 10 people.

Trump views the new version as a way for the US to attract and retain top talent while also generating revenue for the federal government. He has promoted the gold card for months, at one point suggesting each card would cost $5 million before settling on the $1 million and $2 million pricing structure.

The president said all revenue raised would "go to the US government" and predicted "billions" would flow into a Treasury Department account "where we can do things positive for the country". The new programme is effectively a revamped green card, granting permanent legal residency and the potential for citizenship. "Basically, it's a green card but much better," Trump said. "Much more powerful, a much stronger path."

DONALD TRUMP
US President

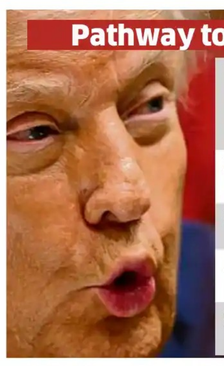
"It is a gift to bring somebody great into our country who wouldn't otherwise be allowed to stay... It's a shame that students have to return to India or China after graduating.

He made no mention of job-creation requirements for corporations or of numerical caps on the scheme, both of which apply to the current EB-5 system. Instead, he cited complaints from business leaders who said they struggled to recruit top graduates from US universities because of visa restrictions. "You can't hire people from the best colleges because you don't know whether or not you can keep the person," Trump said.

Trump said the programme ensures the US is "getting somebody great coming into our country", highlighting top graduates from China, India and France as likely beneficiaries.

"The companies are going to be very happy," he said.

Pathway to fast-track US citizenship



1. Trump's Gold Card offers US residency and a pathway to citizenship for $1 million (individuals) and $2 million (for corporations).
2. The programme replaces the EB-5 investment visa system.
3. Aims to attract top talent and generate billions for the US Treasury.
4. One employee per card for companies; $15,000 vetting fee applies.
5. Focus on top graduates from China, India and France.

A satellite image shows crude oil carrier Skipper (right), which British maritime risk firm Vanguard said was seized by the United States off Port Jose, Venezuela, on Wednesday. REUTERS

US seizes tanker off Venezuela

Over 30 sanctioned ships at risk after rare American action

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

The United States seized an oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela on Wednesday, a dramatic escalation in President Donald Trump's pressure campaign against Nicolás Maduro, the leader of Venezuela.

Speaking at the White House before an event on a new luxury visa program, Trump announced the operation and said it was "a large tanker, very large," adding, without elaboration, that "other things are happening."

When asked about the ship's oil, Trump said, "Well, we keep it, I guess." He declined to say who owned the tanker. "It was seized for a very good reason," he added. Three US officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe a law enforcement operation, said the ship was carrying Venezuelan oil. They said there was no resistance from the crew and no casualties.

In a statement, Venezuela's government called the seizure a "barefaced robbery and an act of international piracy" aimed at stripping the country of its oil wealth.

The operation was the latest tactic in an expanding effort to squeeze Venezuela and pressure Maduro. The Trump administration has accused him of running a "narco-terrorist" cartel sending drugs to the US.

Since September, the United States has launched more than 22 known strikes against boats in the region, killing more than 80 people.

Attorney General Pam Bondi posted a video Wednesday evening on social media showing armed US forces rappelling from a helicopter onto the deck of the tanker. The video could not be independently verified. Bondi said the operation included the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security and the Coast Guard, supported by the Pentagon.

Over 30 US-sanctioned oil vessels doing business in Venezuela could face punishment for carrying crude for export, according to shipping data.

Ex-ISI chief Faiz Hameed sentenced to 14 years in jail

ISLAMABAD, PTI: A military court on Thursday sentenced Pakistan's former spy chief Faiz Hameed to 14 years in jail after convicting him on multiple charges, including violating the Official Secrets Act and engaging in political activities.

According to a statement issued by the army, the Field General Court Martial proceedings against Hameed began on August 12, 2024, under the Pakistan Army Act and continued for 15 months.

He was tried on four charges: engaging in political activities; violating the Official Secrets Act in a manner "detrimental to the safety and interests of the State"; misusing authority and resources; and causing wrongful loss to individuals. "After lengthy and laborious legal proceedings, the accused has been found guilty on all charges and sentenced to 14 years' rigorous imprisonment," the army said.

This is the first time a former chief of the powerful Inter-Services Intelligence has been convicted and sentenced. Hameed served as ISI Director General from 2019 to 2021. He last served as Commander of XXXI Corps before taking retirement in December 2022 after Asim Munir became army chief.

Indian man gets 90 months in jail for scamming elderly residents

NEW YORK, PTI: A 38-year-old Indian national has been sentenced to 90 months in federal prison for his role in an "imposter scam" that defrauded 11 victims, including elderly people in five US states.

Ligneshkumar H Patel pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and financial institution fraud and two counts of wire fraud. The judge ordered him to pay over $2 million in restitution, the Department of Justice said. "Imposter scams are international conspiracies often using US-based money mules to meet victims in person to take their money," said US Attorney Steven D Weinhoeft.

'Architects of AI' are Time magazine's 'person of year'

NEW YORK, AFP

Time magazine named the "Architects of AI" as its Person of the Year on Thursday, highlighting the US tech titans whose work on cutting-edge artificial intelligence is transforming humanity.

Nvidia's Jensen Huang, OpenAI's Sam Altman and xAI's Elon Musk are among the innovators who have "grabbed the wheel of history, developing technology and making decisions that are reshaping the information landscape, the climate, and our livelihoods," Time wrote.

One of two covers of the magazine is a homage to the famous 1932 photograph of ironworkers casually eating lunch on a steel beam above New York City. In the Time illustration, sitting astride the city are Meta's Mark Zuckerberg, AMD chief Lisa Su, Musk, Huang, Altman as well as Google's AI boss Demis Hassabis, Anthropic's Dario Amodei and Stanford professor Fei-Fei Li. "Racing both beside and against each other, they placed multibillion-dollar bets on one of the biggest physical infrastructure projects of all time," the magazine said of the group.

One of two covers of Time magazine's 2025 Person of the Year issue. REUTERS

"They reoriented government policy, altered geopolitical rivalries, and brought robots into homes. AI emerged as arguably the most consequential tool in great-power competition since the advent of nuclear weapons."

CRUCIAL PACKAGE

US approves sale of advanced tech, support for F-16 jets to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, PTI

The United States has approved the sale of advanced technology and support for F-16 fighter jets valued at USD 686 million to Pakistan.

The US Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), in a letter sent to Congress on Monday, gave the approval, reported Dawn on Thursday.

The package includes Link–16 systems, cryptographic equipment, avionics updates, training, and comprehensive logistical support. The DSCA letter makes clear the rationale for the sale, stating that it "will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by allowing Pakistan to retain interoperability with US and partner forces in ongoing counterterrorism efforts and in preparation for future contingency operations."

The proposed sale is also aimed at modernising Pakistan's F-16 fleet and addressing operational safety concerns.

The letter notes that it will "maintain Pakistan's capability to meet current and future threats by updating and refurbishing its Block–52 and Mid Life Upgrade F–16 fleet," the report said. These updates will provide more "seamless integration and interoperability between the Pakistan Air Force and the US Air Force in combat operations, exercises, and training, and refurbishment will extend the aircraft life through 2040 while addressing critical flight safety concerns," the letter adds.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (BUILDING)
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARRTMENT, NIRAMAN BHAWAN, Plot No. 27-28 , Arera Hills, BHOPAL
PHONE No. 0755-2559571 E-mail:-apdpiubhopal@gmail.com

NIT No. 33/2025/Tender/G/CE(B)/ **BHOPAL DATE 01/12/2025**

Online bids for the following works are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria :

S. No.	Tender Portal No.	Name of work	District	Probable Amount Contract (Rs. in lakh)	Eranest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (in Rs.)	Period of completion (in months i/c Rainy Season)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	2025_PWPIU_466662_1	ZONAL TENDER FOR SMALL CONSTRUCTION WORK, BALANCE WORK AND P.G.REPAIRING WORK UNDER DISTRICT BHOPAL	BHOPAL	100.00	100000	12500	12 months i/c Rainy season
2	2025_PWPIU_466658 _1	ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN & DPR CONSULTANCY FOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN & DPR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS BUILDINGS WORKS IN THE YEAR OF 2023-24 IN MPPWD BUILDING BHOPAL	BHOPAL	200.00	200000	15000	12 months i/c Rainy season
3	2025_PWPIU_465577_1	CONSTRUCTION OF 3-LAB AND 4-CLASSROOMS UNDER P.M. SHRI SCHEME AT GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL LAYRA BLOCK KURWAI, DISTRICT VIDISHA	VIDISHA	107.69	107690	12500	12 months i/c Rainy season

1 All details relating to the Bid Document (s) can be viewed and downloaded free of cost from the website. **http:// mptenders.gov.in**
2 Bid Document (s) can be purchased after making online payment of portal fees through Credit/Debit/Cash Card/internet Banking.
3 The Bid Document (s) can be purchased only online from 10:30 (time) 01.12.2025 (date) to 17.30 (time) 15.12.2025 (date). Other key dates may be seen in Bid Data Sheet.
4 Amendment (s) to NIT, if any, shall be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

CHIEF ENGINEER (BUILDING)
PWD BHOPAL M.P.

PROPOSAL FOR PERIODICAL OVERHAULING OF AUTO TENSIONING DEVICE

E-Tender Notice No. EL_TRD_54_25-26 dated: 10-12-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Name of work:** Proposal for Periodical Overhauling of Auto tensioning Device in Katihar division (Phase-II). **Tender Value:** ₹2,28,77,093.16/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,64,400/-. **Date & Time of closing of tender:** At **15.00** hrs. **& opened at 15.30** hrs. on **31-12-2025.** The complete information of above e-tender will be available upto **15.00** hrs. on **31-12-2025** in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. DEE (G & Chg), Katihar

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice
Open Tender Notice No. WCR-CRWS-TOILETUPG-25-32R

E-tenders are invited from experienced contractors on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work- **Name of work: Up-gradation of Toilets in LHB AC and LHB Non-AC Coaches at CRWS, Bhopal. Cost of work:** ₹ 44,21,58,610.40. **Cost of tender form:** 0.00. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 23,60,800/-. **Time of Completion:** 24 Months. **Online Bidding Start Date/Online Tender Closing Date and Time:** 17.12.2025/ 31.12.2025 up-to 16.00 Hrs. **Date and Time of Opening of Tender:** 31.12.2025 at 16.30 Hrs. Detailed information about tender and tender format is available at website **www.ireps.gov.in** and tender notice at notice board of CWM, CRWS, Bhopal's office.

Chief Workshop Manager, CRWS, Nishatpura, Bhopal.

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 222-S/1/W-II, dated 08.12.2025. Following e-tenders are invited online by Divisional Engineer/III, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following works : **Tender No.: TN-140-25-26. Name of the Work** : (i) Provision of 1 no. lift at Murshidabad station, (ii) Provision of ramp facilities, toilets, SS hand rails, water booth, low height booking counter, tactile guiding and warning blocks leading to the edge of staircase etc. for Divyangjan person at Murshidabad and Plassey stations (2 nos.) under SSE/Works/ Berhampore Court in the jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer/Berhampore Court. **Tender Value** : Rs. 45,48,944.30. **EMD:** Rs. 91,000/-. **Completion period for the work** : 6 months. **Date & time of closing of tenders** : 02.01.2026 at 15.00 hrs. **Date & time of opening of tender:** 02.01.2026 at 15.30 hrs. The tender document and other details are available at **www.ireps.gov.in** The bidding is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. (SDAH-295/2025-26)

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway
@easternrailwayheadquarter

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/167/2025
Dated : 08-12-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointment of Authority Engineer(s) for providing project management services for Project-1: Construction of new Broad Gauge line between Mid Section (km:5.72) and Kuppam (incl.) (km:23.869) under Marikuppam - Kuppam new line project (23.7km) including Civil & Track works, Signal & Telecommunication works, Railway Electrification and Electrical general services (EPC) and for Project-2: Construction of a New Broad Gauge Railway line between Malugur (Chainage (-) 1906.6 (Ch: 108125 of Yelahanka - Penukonda) to Palasamudram (Chainage 17/150) including 02 New Yards (Chalivendala & Palasamudram) and existing Malugur Yard modification with a route length of 19.057 km including Signal & Telecommunication, Electrification & Electrical general service works (EPC). **(Tender Ref. No. PMS-MLU-PALA-MKM-KPN)**	Rs. 10,29,54,466/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs on 27-01-2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/720/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

Publics are hereby informed that my client **M/s DS-Max Properties Pvt. Ltd.**, having its office at No. 1854, 17th Main, 30th 'B' Cross, HBR Layout, 1st Stage, 5th Block, Bangalore- 43 and intend to enter into Agreement of Sale and GPA or Absolute Sale Deed with Owner **Smt Anjalamma** D/o Late Venkataramanappa is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing Sy. No. **57/1**, which measuring **07 guntas**, situated at **Bagur Village**, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and whereas **Sri B.V.Nagappa** s/o Late Venkatagiriyappa is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing Sy.No. **57/1**, which measuring **08 guntas**, situated at **Bagur Village**, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, which total measuring **07 guntas + 08 guntas = 15 guntas** and commonly bounded on **East by:** Remaining portion of same Sy.No.57/1, **West by:** Land in Sy. No. 106, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Remaining land in Sy. No. 57/1 and referred to as schedule property of **Item No. I**.

WHEREAS Sri B.V.Nagappa s/o Sri Venkatagiriyappa, Sri Bajjappa and Sri Thimmakka w/o Late Krishnappa are the absolute owner/s of Agricultural land property bearing Sy. No. **106/2**, which measuring **05.08 guntas** and exclusive of **01 guntas 'B'** kharab land, situated at **Bagur Village**, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on **East by:** Land in Sy. No. 57, **West by:** Land in Sy. No. 105, **North by:** Land in Sy. No. 106/1, **South by:** Land in Sy. No. 106/3 and referred to as schedule property of **Item No. II**.

WHEREAS Sri B.V.Nagappa s/o Sri Venkatagiriyappa is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing Sy. No. **106/3**, which measuring **05 guntas**, situated at **Bagur Village**, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on **East by:** Land in Sy. No. 57, **West by:** Land in Sy. No. 105 and Private Property, **North by:** Land in Sy. No. 106/2, **South by:** Land in Sy. No. 106/4 and referred to as schedule property of **Item No. III**.

WHEREAS Sri C.Guruswamy s/o Late Chikkavenkatappa is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing Sy. No. **101/1**, which measuring **17 guntas**, situated at **Bagur Village**, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on **East by:** Land in Sy. No. 99, **West by:** Raja Kaluve, **North by:** Land in Sy. No. 105, **South by:** Land in Sy. No. 101/2 and referred to as schedule property of **Item No. IV**.

WHEREAS Sri T.Krishnappa s/o Sri Thammaiah is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing Sy. No. **101/2**, which measuring **16 guntas**, situated at **Bagur Village**, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on **East by:** Land in Sy. No. 99, **West by:** Raja Kaluve, **North by:** Land in Sy. No. 105/1, **South by:** Land in Sy. No. 101/3 and referred to as schedule property of **Item No. V**.

WHEREAS Sri T.Krishnappa s/o Sri Thammaiah is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing Sy. No. **101/3**, which measuring **16 guntas**, situated at **Bagur Village**, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on **East by:** Land in Sy. No. 99, **West by:** Raja Kaluve, **North by:** Land in Sy. No. 105/2, **South by:** Land in Sy. No. 101/4 and referred to as schedule property of **Item No. VI**.

WHEREAS Sri T.Krishnappa s/o Sri Thammaiah is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing Sy. No. **101/4**, which measuring **17 guntas**, situated at **Bagur Village**, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on **East by:** Land in Sy. No. 96, **West by:** Raja Kaluve, **North by:** Land in Sy. No. 105/3, **South by:** Land in Sy. No. 100 and referred to as schedule property of **Item No. VII**.

WHEREAS Sri Muniyappa s/o Late Ramaiah is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing Sy. No. **105/1**, which measuring **15 guntas** and exclusive of **0.12 guntas 'B'** kharab land, situated at **Bagur Village**, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on **East by:** Land in Sy. No. 105/2, **West by:** Raja Kaluve, **North by:** Land in Sy. No. 107, **South by:** Land in Sy. No. 101 & 99 and referred to as schedule property of **Item No. VIII**.

WHEREAS Sri M.Nagaraja s/o Sri D.Munireddy is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing Sy. No. **105/2**, which measuring **1 acre 27 guntas** and exclusive of **0.04 guntas 'B'** kharab land, situated at **Bagur Village**, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on **East by:** Land in Sy. No. 106, **West by:** Land in Sy. No. 105/1, **North by:** Land in Sy. No. 107, **South by:** Land in Sy. No. 101 & 99 and referred to as schedule property of **Item No. IX**.

WHEREAS Sri Karagapa s/o Late Bolappa @ Kalappa, Smt Munilakshmamma d/o Late Bolappa @ Kalappa is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing Sy. No. **107**, which measuring **15 guntas**, out of **1 acre 23 guntas** and exclusive of **14 guntas 'B'** kharab land, situated at **Bagur Village**, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on **East by:** Property of Sri. Kallupillappa, **West by:** Property of Sri. Chikka Rangappa, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Land in Sy. No. 105/1,2 and referred to as schedule property of **Item No. X**.

which total measuring of **Item.No.I to X = 4 acre 28.08 guntas** and exclusive of **16 Guntas** of **'B'** Kharab land referred to as **"Schedule Property of Item.No.I to X"**.

Any person or Any Authority or Any promoters having any asserting right, title, interest and claims to oppose for Agreement of Sale and GPA or Absolute Sale Deed of property and further having any manner of right, title, claims etc., and may lodge their objections, claims over the property along with relevant papers in support of their claims, right to the below address within **15** days from the date of this notice, if any objections fails to comply, my client shall take further steps and deemed for entering into Agreement of Sale or GPA or Absolute Sale Deed of property.

LINGARAJ. S. NADAGOUDA., ADVOCATE
No.1854, 17th Main, 30th 'B' Cross, HBR Layout, 1st Stage, 5th Block, Bangalore - 560 043.
Mob : 96204 74780 , 94481 35970

'If happy with India's offer, US should sign trade deal on dotted lines'

Goyal doesn't give deadline for signing of FTA between the two nations

MUMBAI, PTI

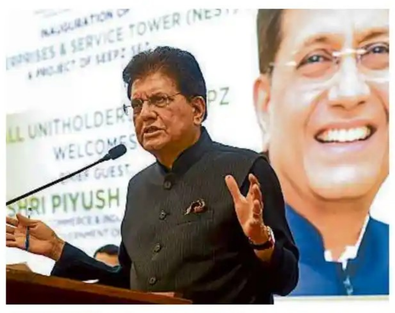
The US should sign the free trade agreement with India on the "dotted lines" if Washington is happy with what has been offered by New Delhi, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

Goyal welcomed the Trump administration's views on India's offer, but refrained from giving a deadline for the signing of the long-awaited FTA between the two nations.

The minister was reacting to a comment by US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer in Washington, who said that the US has received the "best ever" offer from India.

"His happiness is very much welcome. And, I do believe that if they are very happy, they should be signing on the dotted lines," Goyal told reporters here.

He, however, declined to specify India's offer to the US.



Union Minister Piyush Goyal speaks at an event in Mumbai on Thursday. PTI

The minister said there have been five rounds of negotiations with the US on the trade deal, and added that US Deputy Trade Representative Rick Switzer's ongoing visit to India is not centred around negotiations.

Switzer's visit to India, his first since taking over three months back, is an effort at getting to know each other well, Goyal said, adding that he had "substantial discussions" with the visiting official.

The two-day talks between the US delegation led by Switzer in New Delhi were concluded on Thursday. They have held talks with the Indian team led by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal.

The two sides have exchanged views on matters related to India-US trade and economic ties, including on the ongoing negotiations for a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement (BTA). Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held a telephonic conversation with US President Donald Trump that focused on enhancing economic ties at a time when the two countries are eyeing a trade deal.

The two leaders exchanged views on expanding cooperation in trade, critical technologies, energy, defence and security, officials said.

Speaking at a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on Tuesday in Washington, Greer said there is resistance in India to certain row crops and other meat and products. Row crops in the US include corn, soybeans, wheat and cotton.

"They have been very difficult nuts to crack... but they have been quite forward leaning... the type of offers that they have been talking to us about... have been the best we have ever received as a country, so I think that is a viable alternative market," he said.

These remarks are important as both sides are trying to conclude the first phase of the proposed bilateral trade agreement.

Rupee slumps 38 paise to close at all-time low of 90.32/USD

Delay in India-US trade deal may dent investor confidence

MUMBAI, PTI

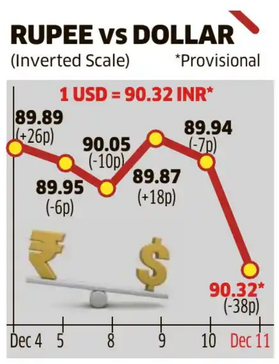
The rupee plunged 38 paise to close at an all-time low of 90.32 against the US dollar on Thursday, amid uncertainty over the India-US trade deal.

Forex traders said the rupee is expected to trade with a negative bias, as the delay in the trade deal between India and the US may continue to dent investor confidence.

Moreover, prevailing risk-averse market sentiment and sustained foreign fund outflows weighed on the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 89.95 against the US dollar, then lost ground and fell to a record intra-day low of 90.48, registering a 54-paise decline from its previous close.

At the end of Thursday's trading session, the rupee was quoted at 90.32 against the American currency, down 38 paise over its last close.



Source: PTI

On Wednesday, the rupee depreciated 7 paise to close at 89.94 against the US dollar.

Forex traders said the rupee fell to a new all-time low of 90.48 after Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran reportedly said the India-US trade deal is likely to be inked by March.

"Indian rupee hit a fresh all-time low amid uncertainty over the India-US trade deal. However, positive domestic markets and a weak US dollar cushioned the downside," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, MiraeAsset ShareKhan.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias as delay in trade deal between India and US may continue to dent the domestic currency," Choudhary said, adding that any intervention by the central bank may also support the rupee at lower levels.

Meanwhile, US Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer has said the US has received the "best" ever offers from India on the proposed trade agreement amid commencement of two-day talks here between the two countries.

Speaking at a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on Tuesday in Washington, Greer said there is resistance in India to certain row crops and other meat and products. Row crops in the US include corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton.

These remarks are important as both sides are trying to conclude the first phase of the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, "The rupee plunged to a record low against the US dollar, a move largely fuelled by aggressive dollar purchases from the importers. Specifically, surging global prices for precious metals enforced metal importers into rush for dollars, creating immense pressure."

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.18 per cent lower at 98.61, after the FED cut rates and gave a not-so-hawkish guidance.

Silver up Rs 2,400 to new record

NEW DELHI, PTI: Silver prices jumped Rs 2,400 to a fresh all-time high of Rs 1,94,400 per kg in the national capital on Thursday, tracking firm global cues amid weakness in the rupee and a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve.

The white metal had rallied sharply on Wednesday, rising Rs 11,500 to scale the record level of Rs 1,92,000 per kg, according to All India Sarafa Association.

Since the beginning of the calendar year, silver has climbed Rs 1,04,700, or 116.72%, from Rs 89,700 per kg on December 31, 2024.

In the local bullion market, gold of 99.9% purity added Rs 90 to Rs 1,32,490 per 10 grams from the previous close of Rs 1,32,400 per 10 grams, as per the association.

Globally, spot gold fell $15.55, or 0.37%, to $4,213.12 per ounce.

Spot silver gained for the third straight session, rising $1.06, or 1.71%, to a record $62.88 per ounce.

Sensex soars 427 points

MUMBAI, PTI: Benchmark stock indices rebounded on Thursday, cutting short a three-day falling streak following buying in auto and metal stocks and a Fed rate cut.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 426.86 points or 0.51%, to settle at 84,818.13. The 50-share NSE Nifty appreciated by 140.55 points, or 0.55%, to close at 25,898.55.

Microsoft joins hands with TCS, Cognizant, Wipro, Infosys

Each firm to deploy over 50k Copilot licences

BENGALURU, DHNS

Microsoft on Thursday announced that four leading IT companies Infosys, Cognizant, Tata Consultancy Services and Wipro will deploy Microsoft 365 Copilot and transform the way organisations operate, innovate, and scale. These companies have partnered with Microsoft to accelerate the adoption of agentic AI.

Each of these companies will deploy over 50,000 Microsoft Copilot licences, collectively surpassing 200,000 licences, and setting a new benchmark for enterprise-scale AI adoption, Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella said.

This comes days after Microsoft announced its plans to invest $17.5 billion in cloud and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure, skilling and ongoing operations in the country over four years (CY2026-29).

Satya Nadella

By embedding AI into core operations, these organisations are becoming Frontier Firms— not merely adopting AI, but redesigning their workflows around human-agent collaboration to deliver high-value outcomes and measurable impact across functions such as delivery, sales, finance, HR, and customer engagement. With AI at the heart of operations, these firms are setting new benchmarks for productivity, innovation, and enterprise transformation, Microsoft said in a statement.

"Cognizant, Infosys, TCS, and Wipro aren't just embracing AI — they're setting the global pace. These global enterprises are moving beyond experimentation to full-scale deployment, embedding Microsoft Copilot into the fabric of everyday work," Puneet Chandok, President, Microsoft India & South Asia, said.

"This bold adoption is inspiring a new era of enterprise transformation, powered by trusted digital collaborators. The blueprint is being written here—where speed, scale, and impact converge to redefine what's possible," he added.

TCS is partnering with Microsoft to transform sales, human resources, and finance functions through AI. All TCS employees now have a personalised AI Coach, and Microsoft was a key partner in the recent global hackathon involving over 281,000 participants.

TCS CEO and MD K Krithivasan said the company has equipped tens of thousands of its professionals with Microsoft AI solutions. Microsoft Cloud, data, and AI technologies are integral to our business transformation.

(From right) Former Indian cricketer Rahul Dravid, Gemini Edibles & Fats India Ltd Senior V-P - Sales & Marketing P Chandra Shekhara Reddy, and Freedom Healthy Cooking Oils Marketing Head Chetan Pimpalkhute launch the campaign in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Freedom's drive to help consumers get right oil for right price

BENGALURU, DHNS: Freedom Sunflower Oil launched an extensive awareness campaign on Thursday, introducing the concept of 'Pack Review System' (PRS), with Indian cricket great Rahul Dravid—in a bid to empower consumers to check if each 1-litre pouch they purchase contains 910 grams of edible oil, as specified by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

The objective is to highlight the ambiguous practices by certain manufacturers to provide pouches that appear to be of 1-litre, but actually contain a lesser quantity of edible oil.

To demonstrate, Gemini Edibles & Fats India (GEF India), the makers of Freedom Sunflower Oil, compared the weight of edible oil in several pouches available in the market, in a pack that appeared to contain 1 litre of sunflower oil. However, several of the pouches, when placed on a weighing scale, were found to contain less than the expected quantity (910 grams) of oil, while the Freedom Sunflower Oil pouch met the required criteria. "This highlights the ambiguous practices being followed in the market and laid the emphasis on adopting the 'Pack Review System (PRS)' (i.e. Check the weight of oil) every time the customer picks a pouch of edible oil," a statement said.

DGCA steps up IndiGo scrutiny; CEO to re-appear today

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, PTI

Aviation watchdog DGCA on Thursday stepped up scrutiny of the crisis-hit IndiGo with its officials stationing themselves at the carrier's headquarters to monitor the operations and CEO Pieter Elbers being grilled by an inquiry panel.

IndiGo, on its part, said it is expected to operate 1,950 flights carrying around 3 lakh passengers, while airports reported flight cancellations.

Over 200 flights were cancelled at Delhi and Bengaluru airports on Thursday, according to sources.

The Civil Aviation Ministry has also directed the airline, which generally operates around 2,300 flights, to reduce its winter schedule by 10 per cent.

IndiGo CEO Elbers, who appeared before the DGCA-constituted inquiry panel on Thursday, has been asked to appear again on Friday as the watchdog delves deep into the factors that led to the massive flight disruptions, resulting in hundreds of flight cancellations and impacting thousands of passengers.

The four-member panel comprises Joint Director General Sanjay Brahamane, Deputy Director General Amit Gupta, senior Flight Operations Inspector Kapil Manglik, and FOI Lokesh Rampal, with a mandate to identify the root causes of widespread operational disruptions at the leading domestic carrier.

The committee's mandate includes assessing manpower planning, fluctuating rostering systems, and the airline's preparedness to implement the latest duty period and rest norms for pilots, which came into effect from November 1 this year.

IndiGo, in a regulatory filing, said that Elbers has been asked to appear on December 12, before the Committee of Officers at DGCA, which is examining the matter related to flight disruptions.

Enhancing oversight, DGCA officials on Thursday began monitoring IndiGo's operations, refunds, and other processes from the airline's headquarters, sources said.

They said the officials are expected to submit daily reports on the situation at the airline, which has been grappling with significant operational disruptions and the subsequent cancellation of thousands of flights due to planning failures related to the implementation of new pilot and crew duty norms.

Lloyds inks pact with Tata Steel for Gadchiroli

MUMBAI, DHNS: Taking a mega step towards the mining and steel sector further transforming Gadchiroli district, Lloyds Metals and Energy Ltd (LMEL) has entered into an MoU with Tata Steel Ltd (TSL), to partner in the areas of iron ore mining, logistics including slurry pipeline, pellet and steel-making.

The proposed partnership aims at utilising the natural synergy in the business operations between Lloyds Metals and Tata Steel.

Cognizant opens AI Lab in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Cognizant opened its India Artificial Intelligence (AI) Lab, alongside a new Cognizant Moment Studio, in Bengaluru on Thursday. Both the lab and studio are part of the commitment Cognizant announced in 2023 to invest $1 billion in generative AI over the next three years.

The India AI Lab extends Cognizant's AI Lab in San Francisco, which was recently granted its 61st US patent. Cognizant said both the lab and studio will focus on developing business-ready multi-agent systems, AI decisioning capabilities, responsible AI and AI-for-good initiatives.

"Cognizant plays a pivotal role in enterprise AI by acting as an 'AI builder', bringing together our platforms, partnerships and highly-skilled workforce to bridge infrastructure investment and business value," Cognizant CEO Ravi Kumar S said.

"Our India AI Lab and Cognizant Moment Studio in Bengaluru offer research in agentic architectures, AI trust and next-generation user experience to create intelligent systems that support dependable decision-making for enterprises," he added.

AI will dissect, unbundle jobs: Microsoft India prez

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Will AI steal our jobs? This is an important question that is being asked by everyone — right from freshers to experienced software professionals in the IT industry. Microsoft India & South Asia President Puneet Chandok said AI will not steal jobs, it will dissect and unbundle jobs.

"Every job today is a bundle of tasks. AI will unbundle it. And when it unbundles jobs, we will need to bundle ourselves much better," he said.

He said people are worried about automation too much, but the real pink slip is not automation, it is our refusal to learn. "This is guerilla warfare against irrelevance every day."

According to him, unfortunately, we are living with this industrial era age template, where you learn once and earn for the rest of your life. "That is breaking completely. Learning used to be like building a house and living in it forever. Now, it is changing dramatically. We will be the last generation to have stable, long-term careers," he warned, stressing that skilling will be our only oxygen mask. AI skilling is the new literacy, and this is no longer a hobby.

In his five predictions for AI, he also pointed out that digital colleagues will join the workforce. AI is a tool on the phone right now, but will become a teammate soon. The next generation of agents that are coming will be autonomous, he said.

Microsoft has announced that it is doubling its commitment of January 2025, to equip 20 million Indians with essential AI skills by 2030.

TeamLease Degree Apprenticeship CEO Nipun Sharma said for students and early-career talent, apprenticeships will play a crucial role in creating a pathway to build AI capability. "By integrating AI-linked tasks into real work; such as data preparation, model testing, workflow optimisation and AI-assisted decision-making; apprenticeships can help employers build a scalable pipeline of AI-ready professionals," Sharma said.

As industries expand into smaller cities, talent availability becomes a strategic factor, to ensure equitable participation, AI learning pathways must be location-agnostic and widely accessible, enabling youth across the country to build skills that make them employable in an AI-powered economy, Sharma added.

AWS to expand Hyd ops with $7 bn investment over next 14 years

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Tech giant Amazon Web Services (AWS) has signed a strategic framework agreement with the Telangana government to drive a massive expansion of its cloud data centre infrastructure in Hyderabad, backed by an investment commitment of $7 billion over the next 14 years.

The agreement, finalised during the recently concluded 'Telangana Rising" global summit, came to light on Thursday. Under this framework, the state government will offer a comprehensive package of facilitation measures, infrastructure support, and ease-of-doing-business initiatives to help AWS rapidly scale its data centre footprint across Hyderabad.

With this latest investment, the Hyderabad AWS Region is expected to play a pivotal role in powering cloud services, AI, startups, enterprises, and government platforms across India. AWS already operates its largest campus globally in Hyderabad.

AWS India and South Asia President Sandeep Dutta said the agreement underscores AWS's continued commitment to India's digital transformation.

TRADE TREMORS

Mexico okays higher tariffs on goods from India, China, non-FTA nations

WASHINGTON, PTI

Mexico's Congress has approved a bill that seeks to impose higher tariffs on imports from India, China, Brazil and several other countries with which the North American nation does not have free trade agreements.

The levies, which are set to take effect on January 1, 2026, was passed by Mexico's Senate on Wednesday after the lower house approved it. The development comes months after US President Donald Trump imposed a steep 50% tariffs on Indian goods entering American markets, including 25% for Delhi's purchases of Russian oil, in August.

Claudia Sheinbaum

The bill, submitted to Congress by President Claudia Sheinbaum in September, proposes modifications to 1,463 tariff categories (or products) covering more than a dozen sectors, including auto parts, light vehicles, plastic, toys, textiles, furniture, footwear, clothing, aluminium and glass, according to the Mexico News Daily.

The proposed tariffs range from 5% to 50%.

Among the other countries that will be affected by the proposed higher tariffs are India, China, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Brazil, South Africa, and the UAE, the daily said. China will be the most affected country.

The paper said that the government believes that the proposed tariffs would generate additional revenue of $3.8 billion per year.

The Mexican government is aiming to reduce reliance on imports from Asian countries, especially China, it added.

The proposal to increase tariffs on China and other countries with which Mexico does not have FTAs represents "an alignment with US trade policy," Horacio Saavedra, a Mexican diplomat, was quoted as saying by the news outlet La Silla Rota.

"The (tariff) measure responds to the shared concern of Mexico and the US about practices that have affected national industries, especially textiles, clothing and certain manufacturing sectors," Saavedra said.

India was Mexico's 9th largest trading partner in 2023, with a trade of $10.58 billion. The bilateral trade in 2023 consisted of Indian imports of $2.54 billion and exports of $8.03 billion to Mexico.

In the trade basket from the Indian side, the most important items of export are automobiles and auto parts, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods and chemical products.

From the Mexican side, the most important item is crude oil. Other products of export to India are gold and related jewellery, chemical compounds and telephone machinery.

Stands named after Yuvraj, Harmanpreet

World Cup winners Yuvraj Singh and Harmanpreet Kaur were on Thursday immortalized at the New Chandigarh Stadium with stands named in their honour, reports PTI from Mullanpur.

Yuvraj, player of the tournament for the 2011 ODI World Cup, and Harmanpreet, who recently captained India to their first ever Women's World Cup trophy, were surrounded friends, family and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on the occasion.

Yuvraj was also seen giving a pep talk to the Indian team in a huddle before the second T20I against South Africa.

IN BRIEF

SAI B go on scoring spree

▸ Pavan DR's hat-trick for the Sports Authority of India Training Centre B pushed the team to a blazing 5-0 victory over Postal on the sixth day of the Hockey Karnataka Namdhari Cup, reports DHNS.

Results: SAI STC B: 5(Binn Bopanna GN 2nd, Pavan DR 18th 44th 48th, Hrithik Aiyappa KD 45th) bt Postal: 0; Canara Bank: 1(Nitesh Sharma 48th) drew with DYES A: 1 (Shivakumarayya V Pujar 44th).

Double gold for Indori

▸ Indian swimmer Abdul Quadir Indori clinched the gold in the 50m Butterfly and 50m Backstroke events on the opening day of the Asian Youth Para Games, reports PTI from Dubai.

IWL to start on December 20

▸ The Indian Women's League 2025-26 will kick off on December 20 at the National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) in Kolkata, with Sethu FC taking on Kickstart FC in the opening match, reports PTI in New Delhi.

Karnataka on the verge of innings win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka are three wickets away from an innings victory as they left Odisha crumbling at 211/7 after taking a 299-run lead in the first innings on the penultimate day of their ongoing elite group match of the Cooch Behar Trophy in Balangir on Thursday.

Resuming at their overnight score of 412/3, Karnataka declared at 469/8 with skipper Anvay Dravid scoring 82 while tailender Akshath Prabhakar scored a quick 29-ball 23, laced with three fours and a six, to accelerate the score.

Trailing by 299 runs, Odisha struggled from early on with Rathan BR removing two top-order batters in space of four balls as the minnows stuttered to 78/4.

Swagat Sourav Mishra then scored a quick half-century (50 off 54) to give Odisha something to fight.

Brief scores: Odisha: 170 all out & 211/7 in 62.5 overs (Abhiroop Das 28, Swagat Sourav Mishra 50, Sambit Beja 38, Arpit Mohanty 29 n.o., Sayed Tufayl Ahmad 26; Rathan BR 4-46) vs Karnataka (O/n: 412/3): 469/8 decl in 126.4 overs (Dhruv Krishnan 105, Manikanth Shivanand 227, Anvay Dravid 82., Priyanshu Mohanty 4-87, Sayed Tufayl Ahmad 3-111).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Second Test: New Zealand vs West Indies **(Day 4, 3:30 am on Saturday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5** & **FanCode**.

U-19 Asia Cup: India vs UAE, Pakistan vs Malaysia **(both 10:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network** & **SonyLIV**.

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy: Andhra vs Madhya Pradesh **(9:00 am)**, Haryana vs Rajasthan **(11:00 am)**, Punjab vs Jharkhand **(1:30 pm)**, Mumbai vs Hyderabad **(4:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports 3** & **JioHotstar.**

CRICKET SECOND T20I

De Kock special floors India

Opener smashes 90, Baartman bags four as SA draw level

MULLANPUR, PTI

The lean run of Shubman Gill and Suryakumar Yadav was extended as Indian batters stumbled on a good batting surface to lose the second T20 against South Africa by 51 runs here on Thursday.

Quinton de Kock made an effortless 90 of 46 balls, pushing South Africa to a challenging 213 for four after India opted to field.

India were expected to chase down the steep target but South Africa removed Indian trio of Abhishek Sharma (17), Gill (0) and Suryakumar Yadav (5) inside the powerplay to put the hosts on the backfoot. India were eventually bowled out for 162 in 19.1 overs with Tilak Varma (62 off 34) playing a lone hand.

The five match series now stands at 1-1 with the third match scheduled in Dharamsala on December 14.

The local crowd was expecting their home heroes, Gill and Abhishek, to fire but it was not to be.

Yet to realise his potential in the shortest format, vice-captain Gill, facing his very first ball, got a beauty from Lungi Ngidi that seamed away from length to take a thick outside edge.

Abhshek was caught behind in the following over from Marco Jansen. Next to depart was skipper Suryakumar who too got a faint edge after Jansen angled it away from the India skipper. Batting at three, Axar Patel (21 off 21) was pouched at cover with Reeza Hendricks just about managing to have his fingers under the ball.

From thereon, Tilak batted at a high tempo but lack of partnerships and soaring run rate pushed the game out of India's reach..

Earlier, de Kock entertained the crowd with his remarkable strokeplay.

When in full flow, De Kock is among the most attractive batters in the game and he flaunted his special skills on a true pitch. He was mainly dealing in sixes in the middle and majority of his seven maximums came in the deep square leg region.

De Kock, who recently reversed his ODI retirement and was not sure about his T20 future post the World Cup last year, is back with a renewed purpose and remains on top of his game.

An innings like this just less than a week before the mini auction will also create the buzz among the franchises, who might indulge in a bidding war for the multi-skilled cricketer.

Arshdeep Singh, who had De Kock caught behind in the series opener, was at the receiving end on Thursday. De Kock began the assault with a pick up shot for six off Arshdeep before pulling the left-arm pacer for a maximum over deep mid-wicket. Jasprit Bumrah too conceded 16 runs in his second over after being disdainfully pulled for six by Reeza Hendricks. The right-hander missed a skidder from Varun Chakravarthy in the following over to give India a welcome breakthrough but De Kock maintained the pressure on the opposition, taking his team to 53-1 in the powerplay.

Brought back into the attack in 11th over, Arshdeep lost his usual calm under pressure after being smashed for a six down the ground by De Kock. The Indian pacer tried to bowl wide yorkers from thereon but failed miserably and ended up bowling as many as seven wides in a 18-run over.

India leaked 123 runs in the last 10 overs.

Quinton de Kock scored an effortless 90 off 46 balls to help South Africa drub India and level the series 1-1 in Mullanpur on Thursday. AFP

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA	
De Kock (run out)	90
Hendricks b Varun	8
Markram c Axar b Varun	29
Brevis c Tilak b Axar	14
Ferreira (not out)	30
Miller (not out)	20
Extras (B-1, LB-5, W-16)	22
TOTAL (for 4 wkts, 20 overs)	**213**

Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-121, 3-156, 4-160

Bowling: Arshdeep 4-0-54-0, Bumrah 4-0-45-0, Varun 4-0-29-2, Axar 3-0-27-1, Hardik 3-0-34-0, Dube 2-0-18-0.

INDIA	
Abhishek c de Kock b Jansen	17
Gill c Hendricks b Ngidi	0
Axar c Hendricks b Baartman	21
Suryakumar c de Kock b Jansen	5
Tilak c Markram b Ngidi	62
Hardik c Brevis b Sipamla	20
Jitesh c Baartman b Sipamla	27
Dube b Baartman	1
Arshdeep c Miller b Baartman	4
Varun c Markram b Baartman	0
Bumrah (not out)	0
Extras (B-3, LB-1, W-1)	5
TOTAL (all out, 19.1 overs)	**162**

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-19, 3-32, 4-67, 5-118, 6-157, 7-158, 8-162, 9-162.

Bowling: Ngidi 3.1-0-26-2, Jansen 4-0-25-2, Sipamla 4-0-46-2, Ferreira 1-0-14-0, Baartman 4-0-24-4, Linde 3-0-23-0.

Result: South Africa win by 51 runs. **Series:** South Africa level 5-match series 1-1. **PoM**: Quinton de Kock. **Next match:** Dharamsala (Dec 14).

Vijaya CC trump Hannan's century

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hannan Zaki Ahmad's well-made 120 for Swastic Union Cricket Club (2) stood for nothing as Vijaya Cricket Club batters took their side to a three-wicket win in the KSCA U-14 Inter-Club tournament Group I-II and III division here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: Swastic Union CC (2): 241/6 in 50 overs (Hannan Zaki Ahmad 120, Mohammed Umair 59; Vishv Sachin Raddi 2-38, Aniket Chaturvedi 2-38) lt to Vijaya CC: 242/7 in 49.1 overs (Ahaan Dash 88, Gagan R Metre 84, Krishna Rajput 30 n.o.; Samji Vishnu Sathwik 2-32).
National United CC: 98 all out in 41.5 overs (Saarish D Prakash 58; Vishist PJ 2-15, Krishna 2-12, Samrudh Desai 3-26, Sangam Singh 2-13) lt to Bangalore SC: 96/0 in 7.2 overs (Saurjyesh Das 28 n.o., Pavandeep Bharadakane 67 n.o.).
Herons CC: 152 all out in 50 overs (Mahin Srikanth 28, Ashwwath Nagarajan 41, Vaibhav Sathish 30; Thamish T 2-27, Jeet D 3-31, Manoj Gowda M 3-42) lt to Young Lions Club: 153/8 in 49.2 overs (Mohammed Yaseen 85; Kodatala Sai Shravan Reddy 2-29, Aadithya P 2-27, Akhilesh Pradhan 2-33).
Malleswaram United CC: 206 all out in 45 overs (Keerthan Raghu 86, Shishir 26, Sachit S Galatagi 28; Sharav Chetan Koundinya 3-45, Punarv Bayari 2-35, Pratham Kulkarni 2-20) bt Mount Joy CC: 83 all out in 25.3 overs (Yeshwin Ramesh 2-20, Jeevan G 4-14, Mihir Sudheer Nayak 4-5).
Swastic Union CC (2): 241/6 in 50 overs (Hannan Zaki Ahmad 120, Mohammed Umair 59; Vishv Sachin Raddi 2-38, Aniket Chaturvedi 2-38) lt to Vijaya CC: 242/7 in 49.1 overs (Ahaan Dash 88, Gagan R Metre 84, Krishna Rajput 30 n.o.; Samji Vishnu Sathwik 2-32).
1RVCE Gymkhana: 150 all out in 46 overs (Chirayu Vishesh 55 n.o.; Sujay G 3-16, Akhieera Allan W 2-18) lt to Minerva CC: 151/3 in 40.2 overs (Rajveer Mehta 58 n.o., Yug Sinh Jadeja 24 n.o.; Jaipreeth 2-36).
Mathikere CC: 142 all out in 49.3 overs (Gagan P Maiya 28, Sidharth Nayaka 38; Vinjamuri Rushyanth 4-9, Tanush Das 3-22, Vyom Naidu 2-33) lt to Social Cricketers: 143/3 in 28.3 overs (Athreya Bhat 58 n.o., Hridaan Sai 43; Gagan P Maiya 2-31).
City Gymkhana: 108 all out in 39.2 overs (Bhairav Gowda 56; Saachin Suresh Araganji 3-17, Vivaan Bhusad 2-8) lt to Swastic Union CC (1): 110/1 in 17.2 overs (Hrithvik Shetty 54 n.o., Saachin Araganji 37 n.o.).
Century Cricketers: 56 all out in 37.2 overs (Shubhan Hiremath 26 n.o.; Aaryan Nagesh 4-12, Harsha B 2-15, M Neeraj 2-3) lt to Rajajinagar Cricketers: 57 for no loss in 10.5 overs (Prabhav Pydah 44 n.o.).

Gen Z stars Suryavanshi, Mhatre lead India charge

Colts start as firm favourites in Asia Cup U-19 that kicks off today

DUBAI, PTI

India's Asia Cup U-19 campaign will be fronted by Gen Z batting sensations Vaibhav Suryavanshi and Ayush Mhatre, but equal focus would be on whether the BCCI allows the youngsters to exchange handshakes with their Pakistani counterparts, in what would be construed as maintaining sporting civility at the junior level.

While the India U-19 side, under the able leadership of dashing Mumbai and CSK opener Mhatrem, starts its campaign against UAE on Friday, it is the match against Pakistan on Sunday that will certainly gain the most traction in the junior continental championship seen as a dress rehearsal for the World Cup early next year.

In the senior men's Asia Cup, followed by the Women's ODI World Cup and Rising Stars Asia Cup T20 tournament, Indian players have refused to shake hands with Pakistani players as a mark of solidarity with the Indian Army and victims of the Pahalgam terror attack.

However, when it comes to the U-19 cricketers, it is believed that even the ICC wants politics to be kept away from it and the normal protocol of sportsman spirit should be adhered to.

"The boys haven't been told anything. But obviously, BCCI has given explicit instructions to its manager Anand Datar. Now if Indian boys don't shake hands with Pakistan team then match referee will have to be informed in advance," a BCCI official in the know of things told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

As far as the tournament is concerned, India and Pakistan are almost sure to qualify for the semifinals as the top two teams from Group A. Apart from India and Pakistan, the other two sides are Malaysia and UAE, and they don't have a lot of experience of playing 50-over cricket.

In India's squad of 15, these are two boys who have played more than 30 senior-level games across the three formats and cumulatively scored nine centuries.

India squad: Ayush Mhatre (capt), Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Vihaan Malhotra (vice-capt), Vedant Trivedi, Abhigyan Kundu (wk), Harvansh Singh (wk), Yuvraj Gohil, Kanishk Chouhan, Khilan A Patel, Naman Pushpak, D Deepesh, Henil Patel, Kishan Kumar Singh, Udhav Mohan, Aaron George.

Captain Ayush Mhatre, who has been in sizzling form, will be looking to lead India from the front in the U-19 Asia Cup that kicks off in Dubai from Friday. DH FILE PHOTO

LIVE 10:30 AM SONY SPORTS

Two Indian origin players in Aus U-19 WC squad

MELBOURNE, PTI: Two Indian origin players -- Aryan Sharma and John James -- have been named in Australia's 15-member squad for the men's U-19 World Cup scheduled to be held in Namibia and Zimbabwe from January 15 to February 6.

Aryan, a handy batter and slow left-arm spinner, and James, a right-arm medium pace all-rounder, were both part of the squad that played against India in the youth Tests and one-dayers in September.

Besides cricketers of Indian heritage, the squad features two players of Sri Lankan (Naden Cooray and Nitesh Samuel) and one of Chinese origin (Alex Lee Young). Australia enters the tournament as defending champions, with Oliver Peake as captain.

"We're delighted to announce a strong and well-balanced squad for the ICC Under-19 World Cup. Our focus has been on selecting a group with complementary skill sets that provide the best chance of success in tournament," head coach Tim Nielsen said in a release.

Australia squad: Oliver Peake, Kasey Barton, Naden Cooray, Jayden Draper, Ben Gordon, Steven Hogan, Thomas Hogan, John James, Charles Lachmund, Will Malajczuk, Nitesh Samuel, Hayden Schiller, Aryan Sharma, William Taylor, Alex Lee Young.

Kishan, Iyer keen to make an impression

BENGALURU, DHNS

With the curtains down on the league stage of India's premier T20 domestic tournament on Monday in four different venues across the country, the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) now moves to the Super League stage with just a few days before the all-important Indian Premier League (IPL) mini auction.

While SMAT remains in the shadows of the IPL, for many state cricketers, it is more than just a formality to wrap up before the extravaganza.

This time around, the competition has opted to move away from the traditional knockout format after the group stage and will have two groups of four teams facing each other, with the winner of each group playing for the title on December 18 at the MCA Stadium in Pune.

Mumbai, Hyderabad, Haryana, Rajasthan have all been pitted in Group 1, while Punjab, Jharkhand, Andhra and Madhya Pradesh have all been slotted in Group 2.

Ajinkya Rahane's international career is almost in the sunset, but the Mumbai batter will be keen to make the last chapter of his career a triumphant one. The 37-year-old has also been among the runs, making 289 runs with two fifties, including an unbeaten 95.

Ishan Kishan, who has slightly gone under the radar, will look to press his case further, having made 271 runs in six matches.

Ventakesh Iyer, who was released by the Kolkata Knight Riders, has failed to light up the tournament, with three single digit scores and a lone fifty and would want to make up for lost time.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) also shifted the Super League phase from Indore to Pune due to logistical issues, on request basis from the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association.

The 13 games that is set to be played in Pune, including the all-important final, will be hosted at the Gahunje Stadium and the MCA Stadium.

Captain Ishan Kishan's form will be crucial for Jharkhand in the Super League phase of SMAT. FILE PHOTO

Prabhav powers Rajajinagar into semis

BENGALURU, DHNS: Prabav Pydah scored an unbeaten century to power Rajajinagar Cricketers into the semifinals with a 123-run victory over Swastic Union Cricket Club in the KSCA U-14 Inter-Club tournament Group I–I, II and III Division on Thursday.

Brief scores: Rajajinagar Cricketers: 300/3 in 50 overs (Prabhav Pydah 124 n.o., M Neeraj 89, Tejas 50 n.o.; Saachin Suresh Araganji 2-53) bt Swastic Union CC (1): 177/6 in 50 overs (Saachin Suresh Araganji 32, Hrithvik Shetty 36, Samrat Aditya P 44, Arnav Rajeev Nambiar 33; M Neeraj 3-30).
Bangalore SC: 159 all out in 46.3 overs (Pavandeep R Bharadakane 50; Rahul Jena 3-24, Mohammed Yaseen 3-24, Md Aasiph 2-45) lt to Young Lions Club: 162/6 in 49 overs (Sachith M Yadav 35, Md Aasiph 27 n.o.; Krishna 3-27).
Vijaya Cricket Club: 224/6 in 40 overs (Ahaan Dash 35, Gagan R Metre 28, Krishna Rajput 63 n.o., S Rahul Raju 25; Preetham Gowda 3-49) bt Malleswaram United Cricket Club: 101 all out in 22.5 overs (Ved Nahar 2-33, Aniket Chaturvedi 4-9, Ahaan Dash 2-25).
Minerva CC 184 all out in 50 overs (Rajveer Padam Mehta 43; Arya Ayyappan 2-47, Vyom Naidu 2-27, Om Tiwari 2-13) lt to Social Cricketers: 187/4 in 36.2 overs (Hridaan Sai 70, Athreya Bhat 62, Vyom Naidu 31 n.o.; Sujay G 2-36).

Mitch makes Hay on debut

WELLINGTON, AFP: Mitch Hay **(in pic)** scored an aggressive half-century on his Test debut to help New Zealand to a 41-run lead over the West Indies at the close of play on day two of the second Test in Wellington on Thursday.

The Black Caps were 278 all out with about an hour to play in the final session, after the West Indies scored 205 at the Basin Reserve. At stumps, the visitors were 32/2 in their second innings, with Brandon King (15) and Kavem Hodge (3) at the crease. Michael Rae and Jacob Duffy took a wicket each as New Zealand got through 10 overs in fading light.

Hay top-scored with 61 from 93 deliveries, playing with poise in his first taste of Test cricket. He hit nine fours and a six. Anderson Phillip was the pick of the visiting bowlers, taking 3/70 in 13 overs. Kemar Roach had figures of 2-43.

The 25-year-old Hay came to the crease at 117-4 after Rachin Ravindra, for five, and Devon Conway, who made 60, fell in back-to-back overs immediately after lunch. He quickly found his feet at Test level, at ease with the pace and movement.

Brief scores: West Indies: 205 & 32/2 in 10 overs vs New Zealand: 278 all out (Devon Conway 60, Kane Williamson 37, Mitchell Hay 61; Anderson Phillip 3-70).

New Olympic policy on gender eligibility in early 2026

GENEVA, AP

The IOC set a target of early 2026 to detail a new policy on eligibility in female sports that could see transgender athletes excluded from the Olympic Games.

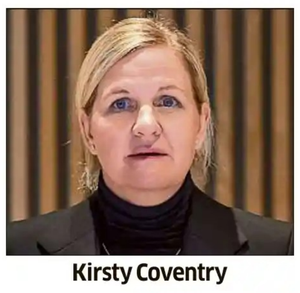
International Olympic Committee president Kirsty Coventry also stressed the Olympic body's statutory belief in access to sport being a human right for all people at grassroots and recreational level.

The two-time Olympic champion swimmer created a working group after taking office in June to review "protecting the female category."

Coventry won an IOC presidential election where most of the seven candidates promised a stronger policy on gender eligibility. Previously, the IOC only offered guidance to the individual sports' governing bodies, who were left to decide on their own rules.

"I am really hopeful that in the next couple of months, and definitely within the first quarter of next year, that we will have a very clear decision and way forward," Coventry said at a news conference Wednesday after a meeting of the executive board she chairs.

That timetable could see an IOC policy — likely on transgender athletes and athletes with differences on sexual development (DSD) — confirmed at its meeting on the eve of the Milan Cortina Winter Games that open Feb 6.



Kirsty Coventry

The 2028 Summer Games follows in Los Angeles, and US President Donald Trump signed an executive order in February, "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports," that could stop funding for organisations which let transgender athletes compete in women's and girls' sports. The US Olympic and Paralympic Committee in July effectively barred transgender women from competitions, telling its national federations in Olympic sports they had an "obligation to comply" with the government order.

World governing bodies in top-tier Olympic sports track and field and swimming had already banned athletes who went through male puberty from their women's events ahead of the Paris Olympics.

In Paris 16 months ago, a furore was created around women's boxing and the eligibility of two gold medalists, Imane Khelif from Algeria and Lin Yuting of Taiwan.

Sale of T20 World Cup tickets begins

MUMBAI, PTI: Sale of tickets for the 2026 T20 World Cup began on Thursday with price being as low as Rs 100 in phase 1 for some venues. The competition is being co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka from February 7 to March 8.

The ICC announced the sale of tickets for the 10th edition of the T20 showpiece on its platform with the 20-team tournament set to be played across eight venues.

Ahmedabad, Chennai, New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata will be the host cities for the World Cup in India, while Sri Lanka will have Colombo (two venues) and Kandy as the two locations.

Defending champions India will take on the USA in one of the three matches on the opening day of the tournament.

AE Brient

Former Jr national coach Brient passes away

BENGALURU, DHNS: A constant presence at the hockey stadium in Shantinagar, noted coach and former Karnataka player AE Brient passed away on Thursday morning after suffering a cardiac arrest.

A fine player for the State in the 1970s and 80s, the closest Brient got to being part of the national side was when he was picked as an assistant coach of the Indian men's junior team and senior women's side.

According to the Karnataka State Hockey Association, Brient was part of the coaching staff when India won the inaugural Sub-Junior Asia Cup in 2001. Apparently, Brient was an assistant coach in the 2001 Men's Hockey Junior World Cup in Hobart where India triumphed. After his stint with the national side, Brient focussed on nurturing the next generation of hockey players. He coached the State sides as well as schools and several institutions.

The KSHA condoled Brient's death. "Hockey was everything for Brient. No matter what, every morning he would be up at 5:30 am and rush to coaching kids. He did that almost till his sudden passing away. KSHA will definitely miss him," said K Krishnamurthy of the KSHA.

SGFC score comfortable victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Goals from Pemba Rai, M Sunil Kumar, R Robinson and Rohit Kumar Ojha helped Sree Gajanana FC to a comfortable 4-1 victory over Blitz FC in the BDFA A Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Thursday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Sree Gajanana FC, through Pemba, opened the floodgates in the 23rd minute of the game. Sunil (45th+2) doubled their lead to go into the break with a 2-0 cushion. R Robinson (71st) and Rohit Kumar Ojha (90th+1) scored two more in the second half, while Atharv Apurv Shukla (87th) was the lone goal scorer for Blitz FC.

Results: Sree Gajanana FC: 4 (Pemba Rai 23rd, M Sunil Kumar 45th+2, R Robinson 71st, Rohit Kumar Ojha 90th+1) bt Blitz FC: 1 (Atharv Apurv Shukla 87th); Stride FC: 3 (Bradley Cliffored Joseph Feegrado 10th, Ginneithang Gangte 19th, Yohann Thomas Jacob 39th) bt Real Chikkamagaluru FC: 2 (Balram Murthy 62nd, Avishek M 90th+7 own goal); Bangalore Eagles FC: 0 drew with Technico FF: 0.

Gritty Yogesh shows Anupama the door

BENGALURU, DHNS: India's Yogesh Kumar came up with a gritty effort to show reigning women's World snooker champion Anupama Ramachandran the door in the knockout round of the Joy Heyball International Open on Thursday.

Yogesh, a three-time Karnataka snooker champion, scored a comfortable 7-3 win over the bespectacled pro in the round of 64. Next up for the 40-year-old Davangere cueist is young Digvijay Kadian.

Select results (Round of 64, Indians unless mentioned): Mohd El Molla (Egy) bt Sumit Talwar 5-5 (shootout); Jack Whelan (GBR) bt Harshit Sharma 7-1; Digvijay Kadian bt Sukaran Singh 7-3; Pushpender Singh bt Abhijeet Ranade 7-2; Sina Valizdeh (Irn) bt Manjot Singh 7-2; Kamal Chawla bt Bharat Sharma 7-2; Keerthana Pandian bt Tathya Sachdev 7-0; Laxman Rawat bt Ashish Kumar 7-1; Vidit Gawri bt R Santosh 7-5; Yogesh Kumar bt Anupama Ramachandran 7-3; Md Faisal Khan bt Manan Chandra 7-5.

HOCKEY JUNIOR WORLD CUP

Germany, the unshakable force

With 8 titles, Die Honamas are a cut above the rest

HITA PRAKASH
CHENNAI, DHNS

Gold: 1982, 1985, 1989, 1993, 2009, 2013, 2023, 2025. That's a total of eight glittering titles.

Silver: 1979, 2021. Add two second-best honours (surely their least favourites) to the above collection.

Bronze: 1997, 2001, 2016. Now, these three medals are to remind us all that even the best, sometimes, fall short.

These 13 podium finishes out of the 14 editions of the FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup which began in 1979 belong to Germany. Correction, 'The mighty Germany'. The prefix to their country's name makes perfect sense given these statistics, doesn't it?

Wondering when was the one time the German under-21 boys 'failed' to grab hold of a medal? Well, that happened in the 2005 edition, hosted in Rotterdam, Netherlands, where they were eliminated in the second round pool stage. Turns out, the team synonymous with robotic precision are humans too.

Aware of their legacy and the expectations of carrying it forward, the German squad at this year's edition -- hosted in Madurai and Chennai over the past fortnight -- shouldered the responsibility with pride to lift their eighth trophy by defeating Spain in the final on Wednesday evening at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium here.

"It has a lot of different dimensions. It starts at the club level, goes on in the under-16s," co-head coach Mirko Stenzel told *DH* after their title-winning run.

"It's where we lay the base for all the shared responsibilities within the group of players and staff and to be honest we could probably name 10-20 different other aspects that add up as the reason (for their success).".

Game-wise, the Germans swear by mastering the fundamentals. Structured systems of play, co-ordination and clear communication, agility and speed in the legs, sharp thinking of the mind and all of it put together builds a blind faith in their own abilities and trust in each other. "The mentality to always be there in the deciding moments, in the crunch time and a lot of willpower and self-confidence sometimes makes the difference in our wins.

An unshakable mentality based on methodology and powered by discipline is the recipe behind Germany's unwavering success in the FIH Men's Junior World Cup. PTI

"Other teams are strong in all these things as well but I think this tradition, this self-belief is something that we have been carrying through the entire last couple of generations," explained Stenzel, who shared coaching duties with 37-year-old Johannes Schmitz.

In all of the medal matches Germany have been a part of in the 46-year-old history of the tournament, their final opponent at this edition Spain were the one who pushed them to the brink with the rest of the 12 occasions ending in straight-forward scorelines.

In the 60 minutes, the Germans' defensive wall received a pounding, attackers thrown off their comfort zone and the lines of play cut off by a zestful Spanish side. All the counters from the Red Sticks were enough to hold the Die Honamas to a 1-1 draw until full-time. But with their ace performer and goalkeeper Jasper Ditzer -- who is studying law -- taking guard in the shootouts, it was only a matter of completing the formalities.

"It was a passionate game and very hard for us until the last second of the shootout. Spain made our lives hard and that's what you would expect in a World Cup final.

"I think they probably even had a bit more of the game than we did but in the end we defended well in the important situations and we always knew that when it comes to a shootout we have the mentality, the will and the quality to win it," said Stenzel.

An unshakable mentality based on methodology and powered by discipline. The German recipe for being champions not once, but over and over again. That's excellence, not perfection.

State paddlers shine in Ranchi

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's young paddlers Tanishka Kalbhairav and Atharva Nawarange secured bronze medals in the U-17 categories at the National Ranking Table Tennis Championships in Ranchi on Thursday.

In the Youth boys U-17 category, Atharva's campaign ended with an 11-5, 6-11, 6-11, 12-14 (1-3) loss to Odisha's Sarthak Arya, confirming a bronze medal finish.

Results: U-17: Semifinals: Boys: Sarthak Arya bt Atharva Nawarange 11-5, 6-11, 11-6, 14-12.
Girls: Syndrela Das bt Tanishka Kalbhairav 11-6, 11-9, 7-11, 11-5.

Atharva Nawarange (left) and Tanishka Kalbhairav.

Clean sweep for Vidya Soudha

BENGALURU, DHNS: Vidya Soudha Public School dominated the Open National Inter-School Volleyball Championships by winning all six age-group (U-10, U-12 and U-14) categories for boys and girls.

Results: Boys: U-10: Vidya Soudha Public School (VSPS) bt Amruthaya Central School (ACS) 15-6, 15-11 (**Best Player:** Likhil, VSPS); **U-12:** VSPS bt ACS School 15-8, 15-12 (**Best Player:** Yashas, VSPS); **U-14:** VSPS bt SBM School, Saidapur (AP) 15-8, 15-12 (**Best Player:** Yashas, VSPS).**Girls: U-10:** Vidya Soudha Public School (VSPS) bt Amruthaya Central School (ACS) 15-8, 15-7 (**Best Player:** Tejashree, VSPS); **U-12:** VSPS bt ACS, TS 15-10, 15-12 (**Best Setter:** Aditi, VSPS); **U-14:** VSPS bt SBM School 15-8, 15-12 (**Best Player:** Deeksha, VSPS).

Lakshya Sen

Sindhu, Sen in Indian team for Asia Team Championships

NEW DELHI, PTI

Two-time Olympics medallist PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen and the star pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty will form the core of Indian squad to take part in the Badminton Asia Team Championships to be played in Qingdao, China from February 3-8.

India are defending champions in the women's category of the competition, whereas the men's team had won two bronze medals in the past.

The world No. 13 Sen will be the top ranked men's singles player in the squad which also features Kidambi Srikanth, HS Prannoy, US Open winner Ayush Shetty, and Tharun Mannepalli. Satwik-Chirag will be lead the doubles unit.

Team: Men's: Lakshya Sen, Ayush Shetty, Kidambi Srikanth, Prannoy HS, Tharun Mannepalli, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty, Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy, Sai Pratheek K, Hariharan Amsakarunan
Women's: PV Sindhu, Unnati Hooda, Tanvi Sharma, Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj, Malvika Bansod, Treesa Jolly, Gayatri Gopichand, Priya Konjengbam, Shruti Mishra, Tanisha Crasto.

Haaland turns the knife on smarting Madrid

PARIS, AFP

Erling Haaland scored his 34th goal for club and country this season to give Manchester City a 2-1 win at Real Madrid on Wednesday as Arsenal maintained their perfect group stage record with a 3-0 victory at Club Brugge.

It was a second successive home defeat for Real following their 2-0 reverse against Celta Vigo at the weekend and heaped more pressure on coach Xabi Alonso, whose side have won just two of their last eight in all competitions.

For Haaland, though, this was a 21st goal in 21 City games this season and a 51st in 50 Champions League starts, while Nico O'Reilly scored his first goal in the competition.

Meanwhile, Noni Madueke's double helped Arsenal win a sixth straight Champions League match this season and close in on the last 16.

The Premier League leaders already have more points (18) than was needed last season to secure a top eight spot and direct qualification for the last 16, and they have two matches still to come.

Madueke's two goals could not have been more different. The first was a wonder goal in which he beat two players and thrashed in a long-range strike. For the second he was teed up by Zubimendi for a simple finish.

Manchester City's Nico O'Reilly celebrates after scoring against Real Madrid during their Champions League clash at Santiago Bernabeu on Wednesday. AFP

Bilbao hold PSG

Elsewhere, reigning champions Paris Saint-Germain were held to a 0-0 draw at Athletic Bilbao but stayed third, behind only Arsenal and Bayern Munich, with City fourth.

Weston McKennie and Jonathan David scored the goals as Juventus overcame Pafos 2-0, while Bayer Leverkusen and Newcastle shared a 2-2 draw, as did Borussia Dortmund and Bodo/Glimt.

Goals from Richard Rios and Leandro Barreiro gave Jose Mourinho's Benfica a 2-0 win over Antonio Conte's Napoli in a battle of the former Chelsea bosses.

Oscar Gloukh scored a brace as Ajax hit three late goals to claim a 4-2 win at Qarabag to finally open their account in the competition this season. Victory took them off the bottom of the table and kept alive their slim hopes of making the play-offs, while Villarreal slumped to last position after a 3-2 home defeat to FC Copenhagen.

Results: Real Madrid: 1 (Rodrygo 28th) lt to Manchester City: 2 (O'Reilly 35th, Haaland 43rd); Club Brugge: 0 lt to Arsenal: 3 (Madueke 25th, 47th, Martinelli 56th); Athletic Bilbao: 0 drew with Paris Saint-Germain: 0. Villarreal: 2 (Comesana 47th, Oluwaseyi 56th) lt to Copenhagen: 3 (Elyounoussi 2nd, Achouri 48th, Cornelius 90th); Qarabag: 2 (Duran 10th, Silva 47th) lt to Ajax: 4 (Dolberg 39th, Gloukh 79th, 90th, Gaaei 83rd); Borussia Dortmund: 2 (Brandt 18th, 51st) drew with Bodo/Glimt: 2 (Aleesami 42nd, Hauge 75th); Bayer Leverkusen: 2 (Guimaraes 13th og, Grimaldi 88th) drew with Newcastle: 2 (Gordon 51st pen, Miley 74th); Benfica: 2 (Rios 20th, Barreiro 49th) bt Napoli: 0; Juventus: 2 (McKennie 67th, David 73rd) bt Pafos: 0.

Top seeds Unnati, Tharun advance

CUTTACK, PTI: Indian shuttlers continued their strong showing at the ongoing Odisha Masters with top seeds Unnati Hooda and Tharun Mannepalli, alongside Tanvi Sharma, Kiran George, and Anupama Upadhyaya advancing to the singles quarterfinals here on Thursday.

In women's singles, Unnati defeated Thailand's Tidapron Kleebyeesun 21-7, 21-14 in just 25 minutes to book her quarterfinal spot.

Unnati Hooda

Joining her was Tanvi, who overcame fellow Indian Aditi Bhatt 21-18, 22-20 in a 33-minute battle.

Anmol Kharb staged an impressive comeback against Japan's Shiori Ebihara, recovering from a 6-21 opening-game loss to take the next two games 21-8, 21-13 in 46 minutes.

Anupama also advanced after her opponent retired in the third game.

Tasnim Mir, who delivered a major upset on Wednesday, put up a strong fight against qualifier Nanami Someya of Japan. She will now take on seventh seed Tung Ciou-Tong of Chinese Taipei, who defeated India's Aakarshi Kashyap 11-21, 21-8, 21-18 in a 66-minute contest.

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